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2012 Melbourne Model Show Report

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 76 - August 2012
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Scratch Built 1:35 scale Vignette

TWEAKING AN RSOV

Hobby Boss' 1:35 US Rangers' Land Rover

MiniArt's 1:35 Valentine in Desert Tones

THE SAINT IN THE SUN

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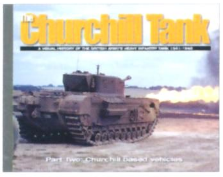
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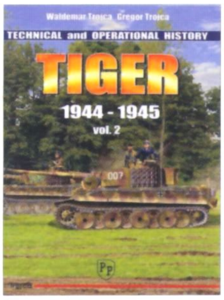
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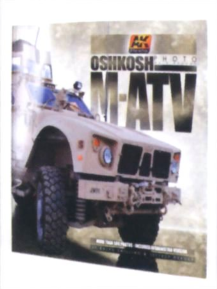
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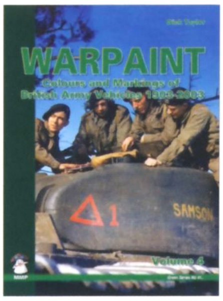

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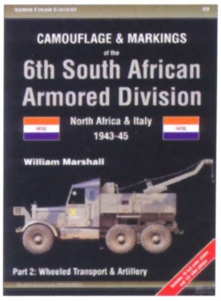
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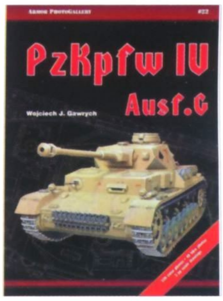
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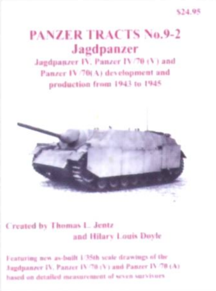
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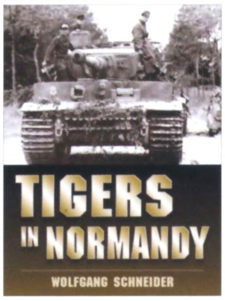
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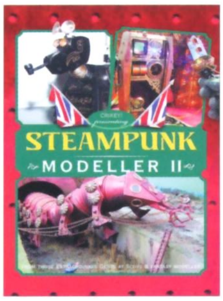
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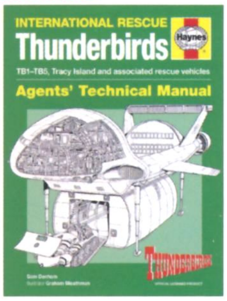
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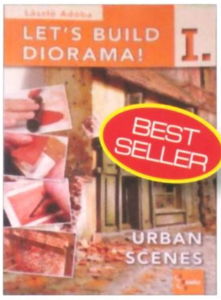
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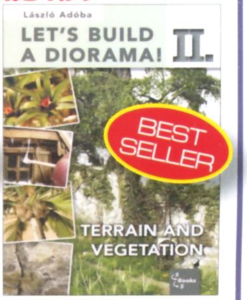
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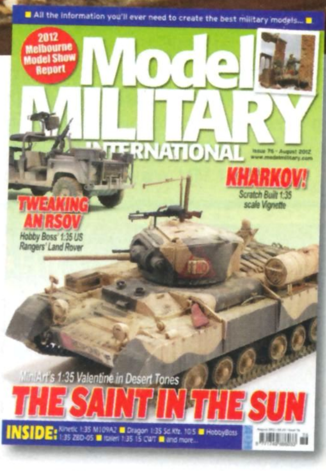
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the international centre

SCALEMODELWORLD 2012

Scale ModelWorld, the UK's premier modelling event and the biggest public model show in the world, will be held on 10 & 11 November 2012. This year, the organisers have added another hall to the show creating 33% more space than in 2011. The new fourth hall at the Telford International Centre, The Ludlow Suite, will be the new home to the IPMS (UK) annual competition. The KitSwap will be moving to a larger area in the foyer of Hall 3, releasing a lot of space for many more club displays and Traders. Other attractions will include a full size Spitfire replica and a special display by the British Titanic Society.

The headline speaker for this year's Meet The Maker event held in conjunction with HobbyLink Japan at Scale ModelWorld 2012 is Mr Hideyuki Shigeta, President of Zoukei Mura Inc. creator of the fantastic range of Super Wing Series 1/32 scale aircraft. Mr Shigeta says "I am excited and honoured to be offered the opportunity to give a lecture at this historic show". Mr Shigeta will give a one-hour lecture on the concept and development of the Super Wing Series kits.

IPMS UK is also pleased to announce that as of 10 May, almost exactly six months before the show opens to the public, all available trade space at Scale ModelWorld 2012 has been booked. There will be 170 diverse traders attending from all round the world and the demand for trade space is such that there is already a waiting list in case of cancellation.

For more information please visit ***www.smwshow.com*** or to be added to the trade waiting list please contact Richard Kent, Scale ModelWorld Organiser at ***scalemodelworld@ipms-uk.co.uk***"

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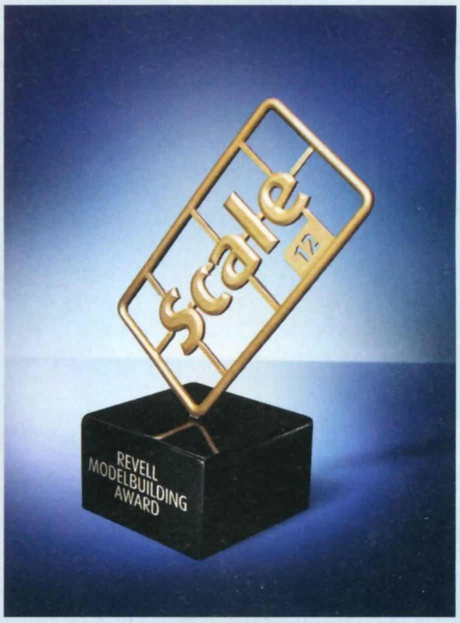


REVELL LAUNCHES SCALE 2012:
THE SEARCH FOR 'MODEL OF THE YEAR' BEGINS

Announcing the 2012 Scale Award, Revell will award the coveted 'Scale' trophy to the model they judge as best of the year. Participants may choose any model kit and design but the key judgement criteria are creativity and attractiveness of each model. The competition will be split into two categories - 'adults' (17 years+) and 'teens' (up to 16 years).

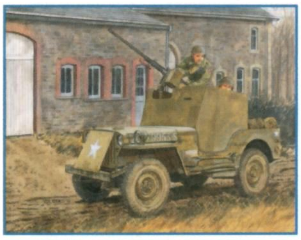
In the first instance, all models submitted will be reviewed by an expert panel. The ten best models per category will be selected for display at the 'modell-hobby-spiel' fair in Leipzig in October 2012. Here, the visitors will vote for the winning model.

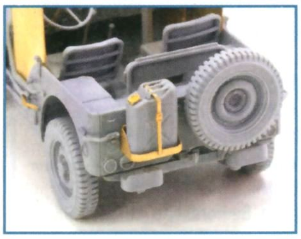
The winner will receive the coveted model building award and an exclusive invitation to the European market leader in plastic model kits for a behind-the-scenes day trip. There will also be some fantastic prizes for runners-up who come 2nd to 10th. The 'teens' category winner will receive a certificate and 200 Euros shopping voucher for model kits.

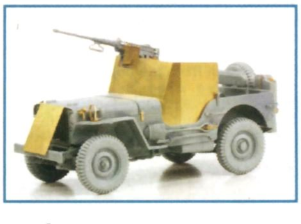
All participants should send detailed pictures of their models via post or email by 15th August 2012 at the latest. In order to review submissions properly, please add a short description of the model with the pictures, indicating its scale and additional parts used. Most importantly, full contact details including phone number must be enclosed.

Entries may be submitted by email to ***award@revell.de***

NEW 1:35 SCALE RELEASES FROM DRAGON



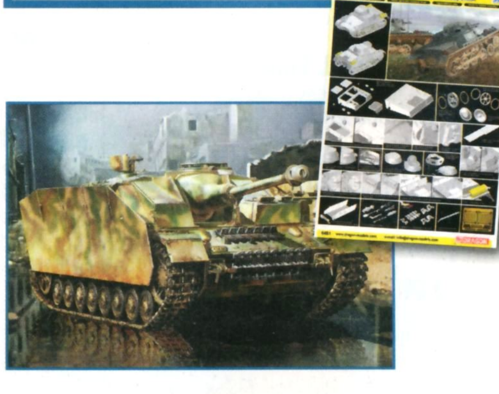


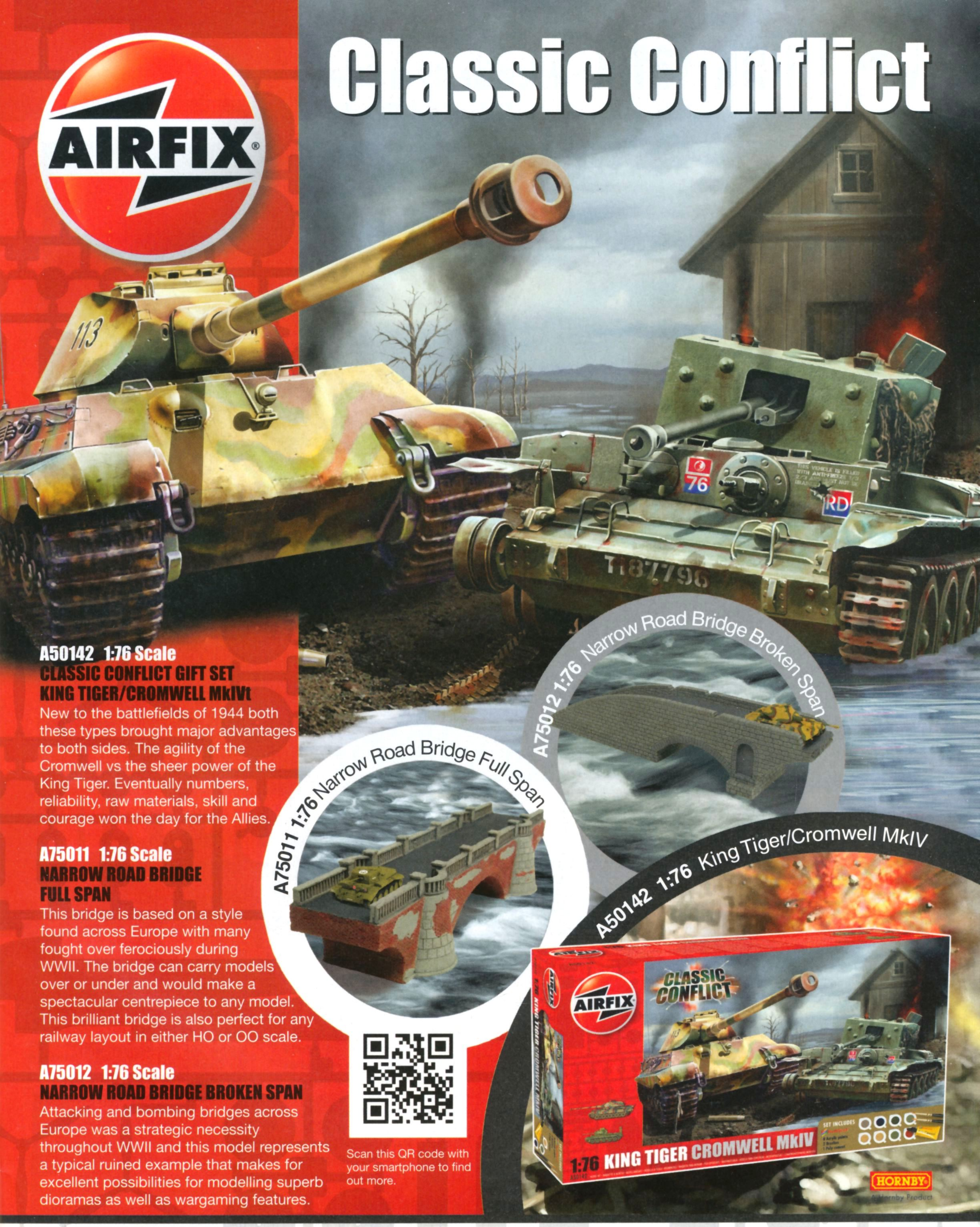


Dragon has produced a new1/35 scale kit of an armoured jeep. The vehicle features a solid one-piece body tub. Under the hood is an engine that assembles from multiple parts and it can be shown off if the modeller chooses to model the hood up. The vehicle is ready for reconnaissance tasks with a set of armour plates rendered in photo-etched metal to give a true-to-scale appearance. Other photo-etched components provide finer details such as tool mounting brackets, hood retainers and various straps. For self-defence, the vehicle also carries a .50-cal machine gun on a pintle mount. All in all, this is one extremely effective reconnaissance vehicle!

Also new from Dragon is their 1:35 scale Sturmgeschutz IV Late Production type. It is accurately tooled and detailed with correct characteristics such as a new lower hull that fits the simplified idler mount, brand new Magic Track, new roof armour and travelling lock. Other components are borrowed from Dragon's previous Panzer/StuGkits. These include the highly detailed 7.5cm StuK40 gun with its breech and mount, separate metal armour skirt plates, late-style exhaust mufflers plus convenient Magic Tracks.

Also this month, Dragon is offering a new 1:35 scale Smart Kit of a 4.Serie/La.S. version of the Panzer I. The kit depicts a vehicle slightly later in origin than the Early-Production Panzer IAusf.A released earlier (Item No.6289). Indeed, thisAusf. A variant is a welcome addition to Dragon's Panzer I line up as it utilizes some high-quality components from previous kits, but mixed with a range of brand new elements specifically introduced for this tank. These modifications include a newly tooled engine deck that's made with the aid of slide moulds, and the louvered hatch that's positioned near the rear of the deck. The kit has the correct suspension and transmission inspection cover for this variant. The track links may be tiny but they're perfectly produced via Magic Tracks with no need for time-consuming cleanup. Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the information and images ***www.hobbyco.net***

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New to the battlefields of 1944 both these types brought major advantages to both sides. The agility of the Cromwell vs the sheer power of the King Tiger. Eventually numbers, reliability, raw materials, skill and courage won the day for the Allies.

A75011 1:76 Scale
NARROW ROAD BRIDGE
FULL SPAN

This bridge is based on a style found across Europe with many fought over ferociously during WWII. The bridge can carry models over or under and would make a spectacular centrepiece to any model. This brilliant bridge is also perfect for any railway layout in either HO or OO scale.

A75012 1:76 Scale
NARROW ROAD BRIDGE BROKEN SPAN

Attacking and bombing bridges across Europe was a strategic necessity throughout WWII and this model represents a typical ruined example that makes for excellent possibilities for modelling superb dioramas as well as wargaming features.

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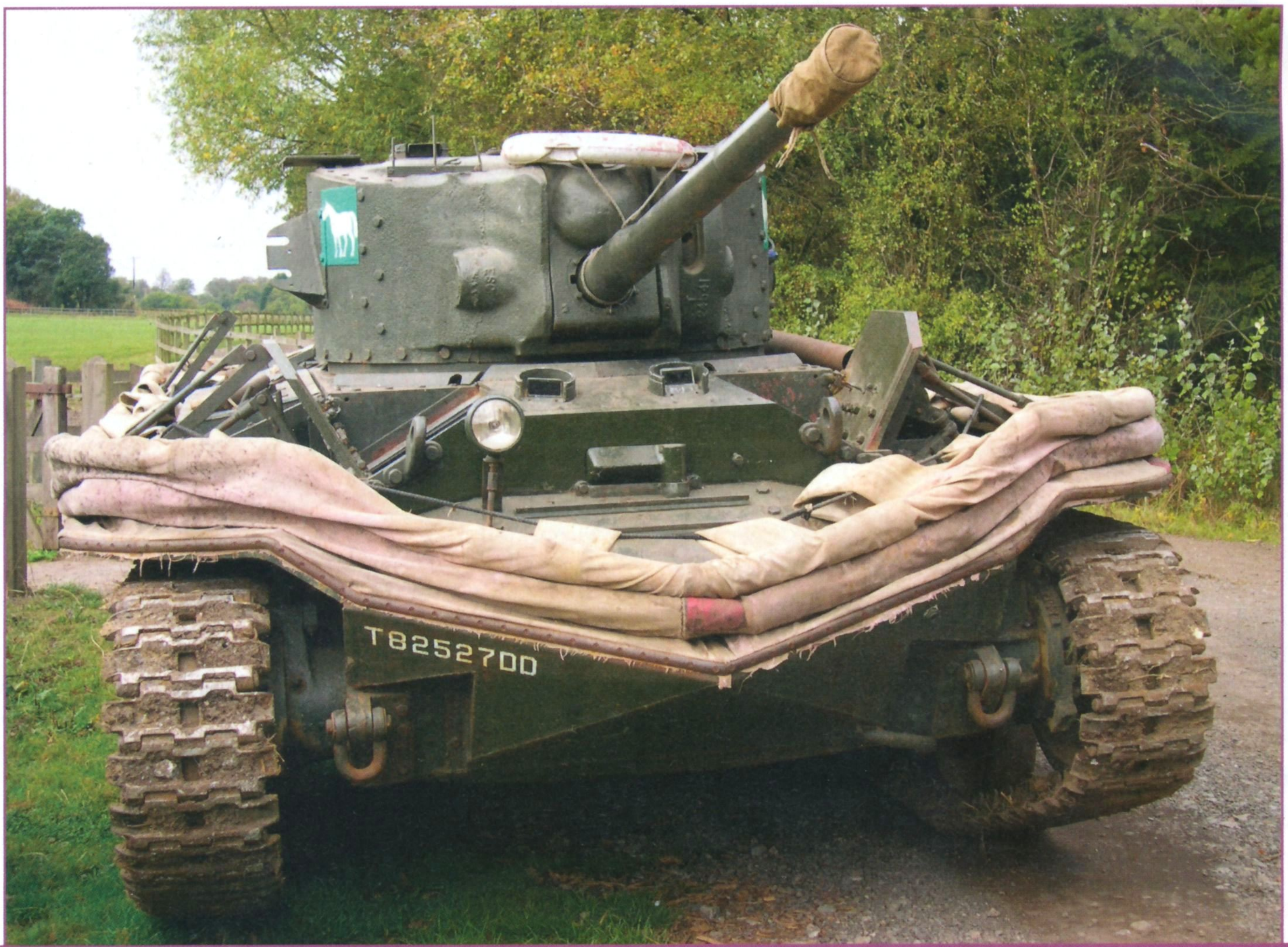

VALENTINE DD IN DETAIL

Gwyneth Wright outlines the history of the Valentine tank and the amphibious DD version before visiting John Pearson's beautifully restored example.

When MMI Editor, Brett Green, asked me if I would do a piece to compliment Jose Brito's build article on the Valentine tank, I don't think he quite anticipated me visiting the only known working Valentine DD (Duplex Drive) in the world. This treat came about as its owner, John Pearson, is a fellow Friend of the Tank Museum at Bovington and was more than happy to show me over the vehicle. But, before we get to that, let's have a look at Valentine's in general.

ORIGINS

Much has been written about the Valentine and its derivatives but some of it is supposition, even the reason behind its name has been lost in the mists of time, although one or two explanations have been put forward.

One is that it was named after Sir John Valentine Carden who had developed a number of Vickers vehicles, including the A10, although Sir John had died 3 years before the Valentine was developed. A different explanation is that the design was presented to the War Office on 14 February 1938, although other sources claim it was 10 February – maybe it was accepted on 14 February, who knows. What is certain is that it had no 'A' number designation as it was a private venture on Vickers part, and that a large number were built after its trials in May 1940. Figures vary between 7,300 units produced and just under 8,300, but the Valentine was the most prolific British tank in WW II.

The Mk.I was rushed into production but most were used for training so it was mainly the Mk.II that first saw service.

Valentines entered service in July 1940 with some being shipped to 8th Royal Tank Regiment, part of 6th Armoured Division, which saw action in North Africa in 1941. They gained a reputation for reliability with some making the entire journey to Tunisia from Alexandria. They also saw service across Europe, and in Russia, Gibraltar, Madagascar, India, New Zealand, on Pacific islands and Burma.

THE VALENTINE DESIGN

Leslie Little's design for the Valentine was based on the A10. The result of trying to achieve a tank with relatively low weight, but the same armour of an infantry tank, was a very compact vehicle. It is only 7'6" high so the crew space was necessarily very restricted, with much of the 17'9" length and 8'8" width being taken up by the engine, gearbox, etc. All Valentines except the Mk.III and V had a crew of three; driver, gunner and Commander, with the Commander doubling up as the loader. The III and the V had an extra crewman in the turret to act as loader/radio operator. Despite its cramped conditions the Valentine was a popular tank, proving very reliable and relatively easy to maintain.

The Valentine had less armour than the Mk.II Matilda but a similar top spped. One veteran told John Pearson that it was the fastest tank they had in desert warfare as Crusader could not be driven at top speed in desert conditions due to sand ingress into crucial areas, and Matilda could not maintain top

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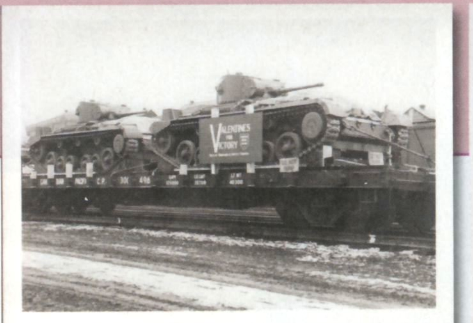
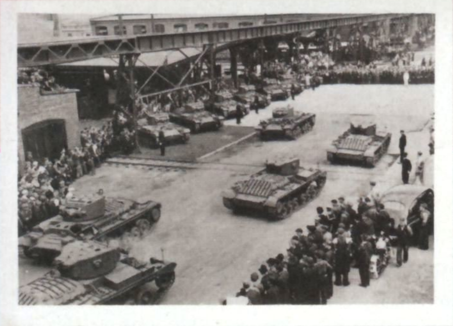
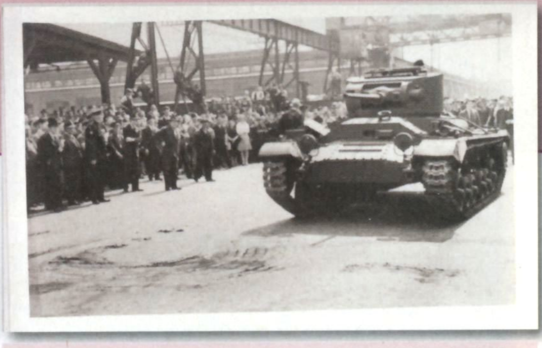


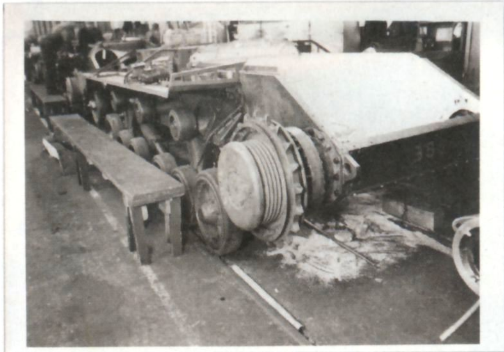
Two finished Valentines on a railway low-loader



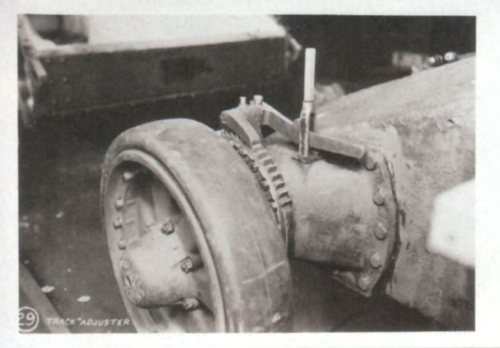
Valentines on parade at the Canadian pacific Railroad, Angus Machine Shop, Montreal in Canada



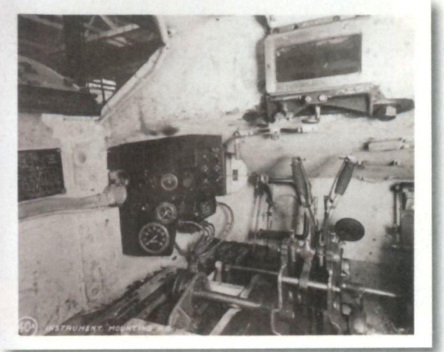
Dignitaries and the public turn out to see Valentines fresh off the production line



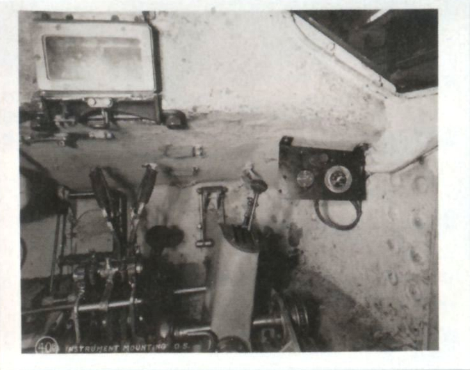
On the production line, viewing the drive sprocket and wheel bogies



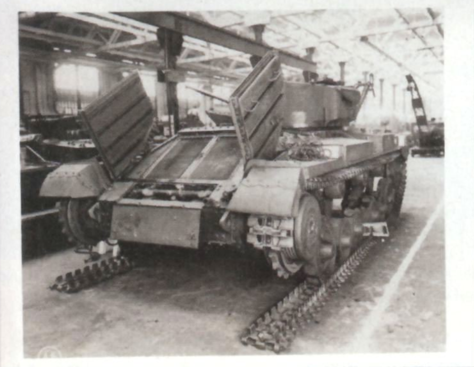
On the production line, the track adjustor



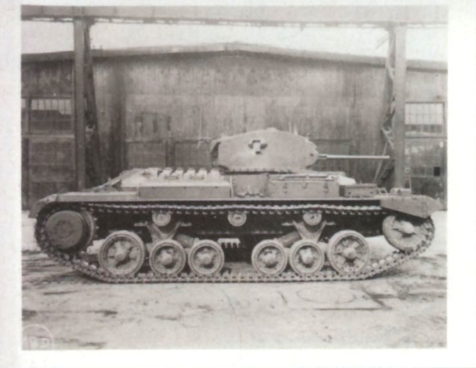
In the driver's compartment showing the two track control levers towards the right



Right side view of the driver's compartment.



The tracks being put on, note the right hand track already in position on the drive sprocket

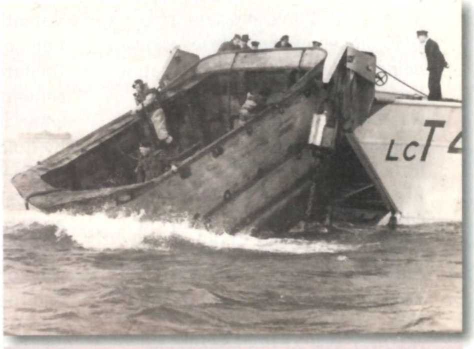


The finished article

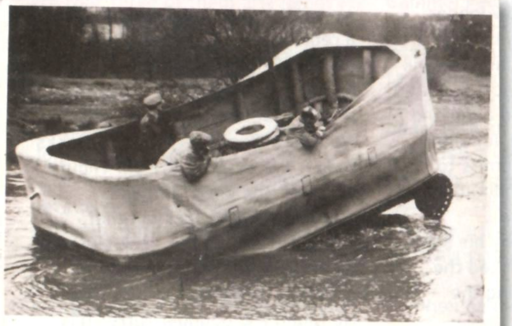
ALL HELP FOR RUSSIA NOW

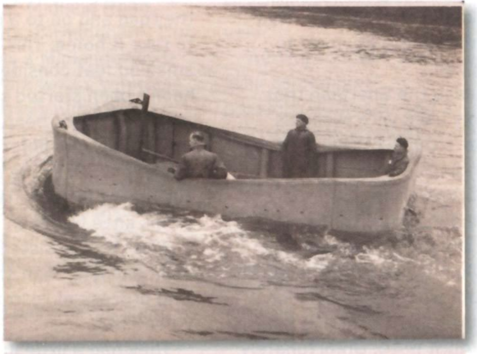
Promotional wartime picture showing support for Russia.

The Home Guard Unit from the Metropolitan-Cammel Factory Old Park works. Given to John Pearson by the gentleman in the centre of the front row.

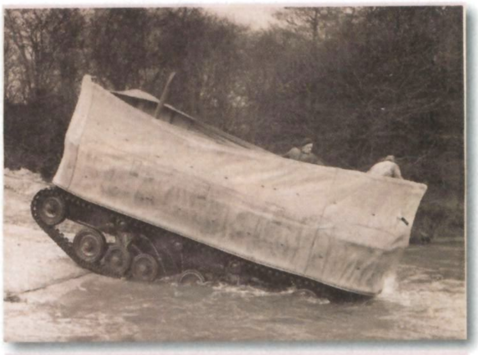


Launching a Valentine DD

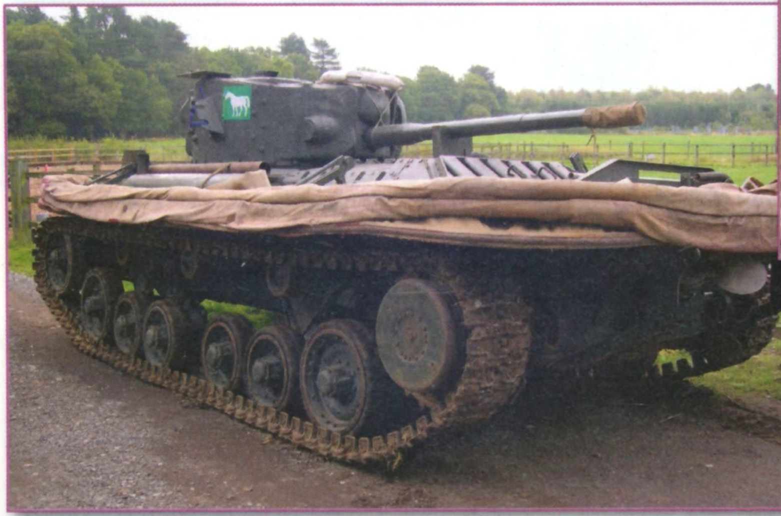




Testing the Valentine DD

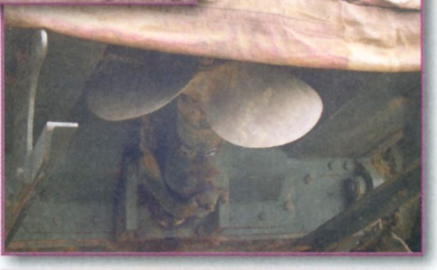


Driving out of the water after testing

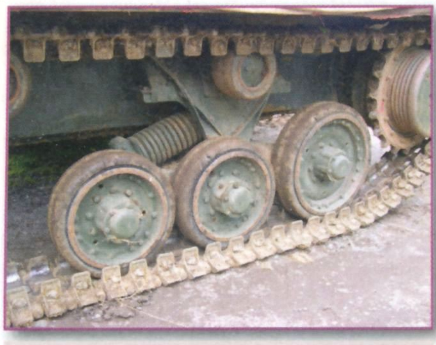


John Pearson's beautifully restored Valentine DD.

Not only is it cramped in the two man turret, it's a bit cosy getting out of the drivers compartment too.

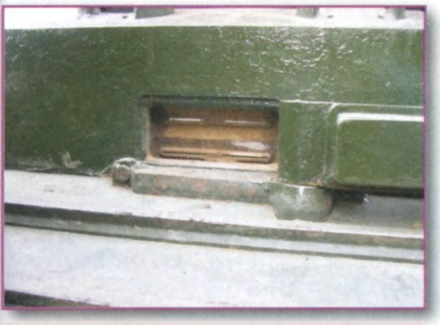


The propeller in the 'up' position.

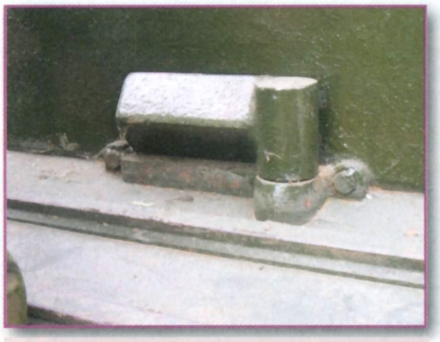


Rear nearside wheel bogie

John Pearson with elder son Colin and the Valentine DD (regrettably younger son, Ian, was flying helicopters in Afghanistan so couldn't join us.



Driver's vision port open but with the lookout block not withdrawn, showing what limited visibility the driver had in combat conditions.



Driver's vision port closed.

speed over soft sand.

Construction started off as riveted, progressing to welded, with the engine changing from a petrol AEC unit in the Mk 1's, to a diesel AEC unit and then to a GMC diesel engine - diesel engines being thought less likely to catch fire than petrol ones. The driver was centrally seated at the very front of the vehicle but has very little vision, through a small portal. Steering is by two steering levers with the transmission going via multiplate steering clutches and reduction gearing to the rear drive sprockets. The pull of the steering levers is in two parts – the first part of the movement disconnecting the drive while the second part activates the brakes. Suspension is through two pairs of three-wheel bogies per side, virtually identical to its A10 parent.

Some Valentines were manufactured in Canada, most of these being sent to Russia under the Lease-Lend agreement, while the majority were manufactured in the UK by Vickers-Armstrong, the Metropolitan-Cammell Carriage and Wagon Company and the Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Company. There were eleven Marks commissioned (although the Mk VIII never went into production and the order canceling them is in the Staffordshire Records Office), with a number of variants on top of that. One of the variants was the Valentine Scorpion, a mine-clearing flail device, and WW II veteran, the late Harold Hamilton-Taylor, remembered working with them when they were being developed by Colonel Hobart at Orford. 'The original flails were on Matildas and called the Baron. These had an extra engine on each side to drive the flail, but they were too wide and it was dropped. Then we had the flail on the Valentine and this just had one extra engine, situated on top of the main engine, to drive the flail but these too were dropped in favour of the Sherman which had a long prop-shaft that you could take the drive off to work the flail.'

It was also the Sherman that was mainly used with Nicholas Straussler's Duplex Drive for the D-day landings. However, there were 625 Valentine DDs produced for training purposes and seven of these still lie in Studland Bay (off the Dorset Coast on the South of England) where they sank on a training exercise – Exercise Smash - on 4th April 1944. Unfortunately 5 of the 7 have subsequently been demolished.

Sixty years later, on 4th April 2004, another Valentine DD landed on the beach at Studland Bay. So how did that come about?

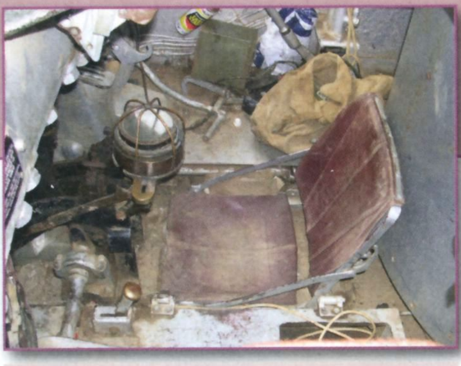
VALENTINE RESCUE

Back in 1984, West Midlander John Pearson rescued a Valentine DD at auction. It had stood in a factory warehouse for years, ever since the owner had tried turning it into a bulldozer after the war. The vehicle was in rather a sorry state with bits damaged or missing but John managed to start it up and drive it out of the factory, down the road and on to a low loader to take it home. This was quite an amazing feat considering the tank hadn't been started since 1947 and John had never been in a moving tracked vehicle before, let alone driven one. Okay, he admits to having the driver's handbook open on his knee but even so...

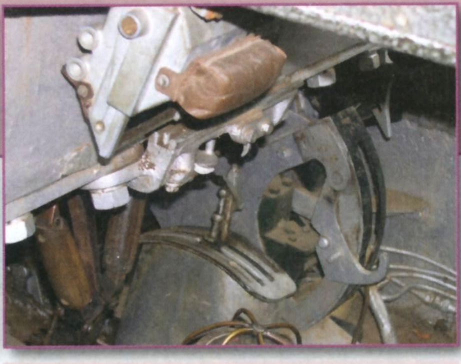
After this, assisted by his sons, Colin and Ian, John started the long process of restoring the Valentine.

They had a little luck when they found the engine covers in the factory yard with a metal detector. Three were usable but John had to fabricate the fourth. The turret ring had been destroyed during the conversion to a bulldozer, but the turret was found, albeit in several pieces. John discovered a replacement turret ring and eventually persuaded the owner to sell it to him but he remembers that it cost less to get the ring from New Zealand to Tilbury Docks than it did to move it from Tilbury Docks to the West .Midlands.

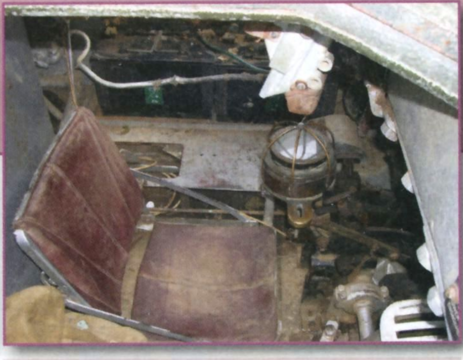
John was also lucky in that, being a Friend of the Tank Museum, he obtained permission to look for parts on various army ranges. He found a 2-pounder turret this way but in fact welded up the original. He found it best to use all-



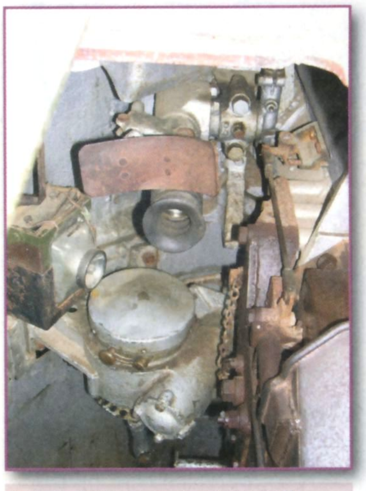
The driver's seat, behind which is the bulkhead for the fighting compartment.



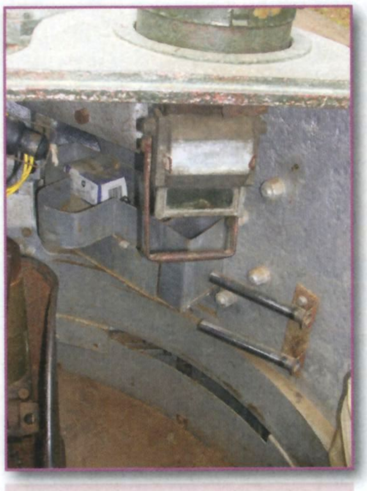
Steering levers to the left, under the glacis plate. To the right of them is the gear change lever and the 'back-to-back E' change gate.



The driver's seat, behind which is the bulkhead for the fighting compartment and showing the heavy duty batteries.

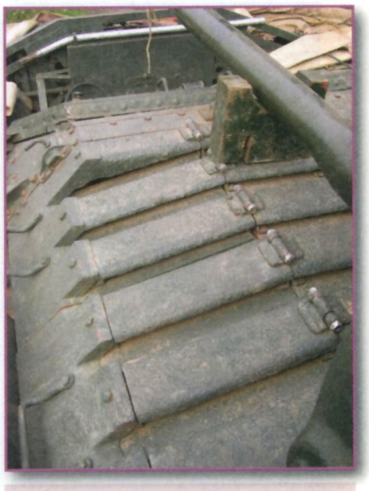


Inside the fighting compartment, showing the Gunner's eyepiece for the periscope (centre) and the side/breach of the gun on the right.

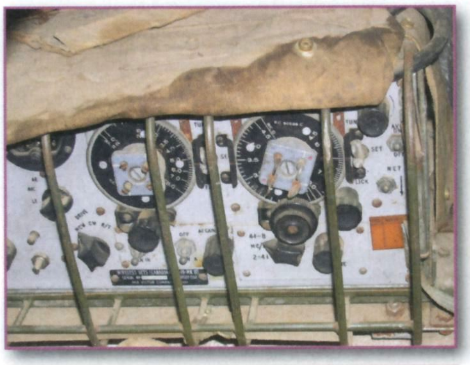


Inside the fighting compartment showing the Commander's episcope

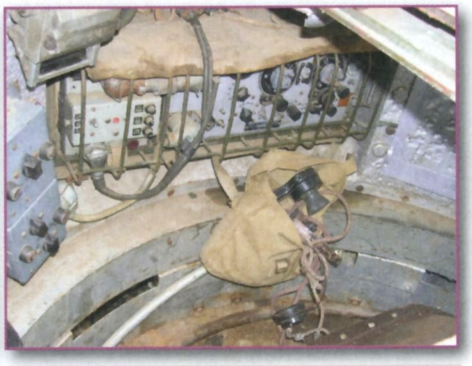
An essential piece of kit for any amphibious vehicle.



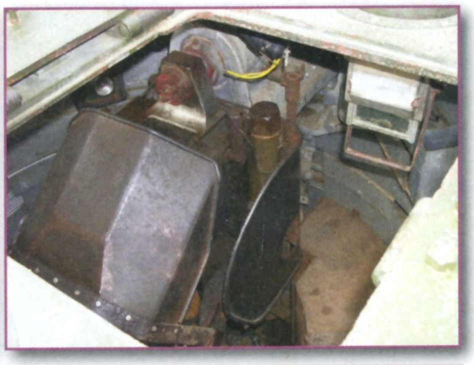
Offside engine covers with the gun on its chock (originally part of the packing for a meteor engine starter motor that was fitted to a Tortoise)



The WS (wireless set) 19.



The original headset etc., in canvas bag beneath.



Through the Commander's hatch, viewing the shield over the gun breach.

positional welding rods, more often used for oil pipelines, the as the more traditional high nickel welding rods proved too fluid. Although he was going to grind off the visible welding, he decided against this in order to show the true history of the vehicle. In this respect he says that while thirty three of the thirty six bolts on the base of the turret are real, three of them are 'heads' only, and if you see the tank at a show you can tell which ones are false by the dot of weld holding them in place.

This wasn't the only welding John had to undertake as the track guards had been trimmed to get the vehicle through a narrow doorway. Rather than fabricate new guards, John welded 3mm steel butt to butt (well, no-one told him you couldn't) to put them back to their original dimensions. Quite an achievement when you consider they're each about 16' long!

Having given the tank's dimensions earlier, they do differ slightly on the DD variant. The DD is an inch or two wider but instead of being 17'9" long, the boat shaped front and back take it up to 20'.

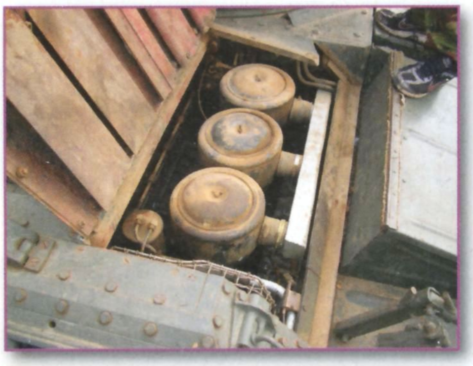
John's Valentine is chassis No. M1022 and was built in the Spring of 1943 at the Metropolitan-Cammel Factory, Midland Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham. The letter M denotes a Midland works tank (the Old Park works vehicles having their chassis number begin with an OP) and the 1022 indicates it was the one thousand and twenty second job out of the factory. John's research also tells him the original turret was the 59th six-pounder Valentine turret built.

When he had paid for his auction purchase John discovered the lot include the original handbook with the War Office serial number, T82527DD, written in it. He was also given an original receipt stamped with the GR (King George VI) stamp. [The original contract price for a Valentine in 1943 was approximately £11,200 plus just over another £1,000 for the DD equipment.] The original tool kit was an additional bonus, and all these artifacts add to the provenance of the vehicle.

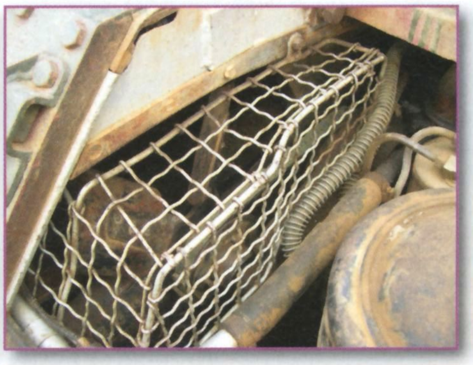
Aiming to make the tank as complete as possible, John sourced a WS (wireless station) 19, with its three different radios all built into the same set, for the vehicle. He also replaced the canvas flotation screen, which is supported by inflated tubes from a compressed air cylinder stored at the rear of the vehicle.

With regard to its DD function, ordinarily the propeller would have been raised and lowered by the driver, but in the interests of not having to climb on and off the vehicle too often at shows John has fabricated a lever which enables him to demonstrate lowering the propeller while standing on the ground. ▶

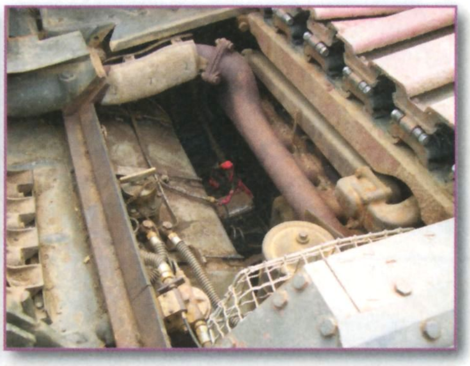
John showing how tight it is in the Gunner's hatch.



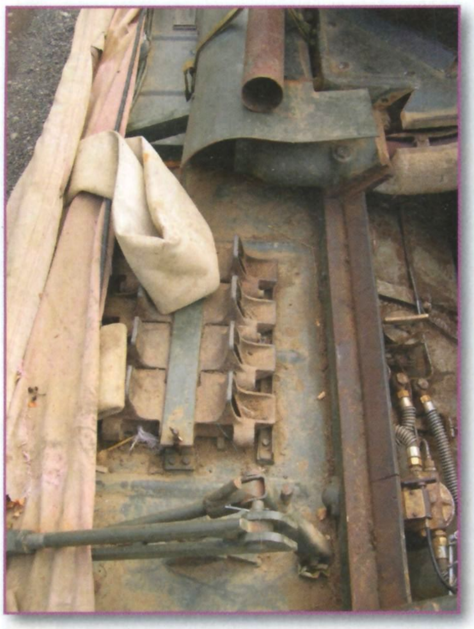
The air filters.



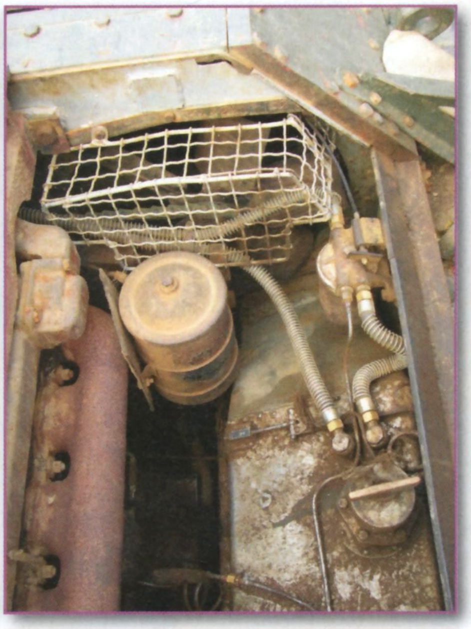
Close up of the fan cage – on the off side.



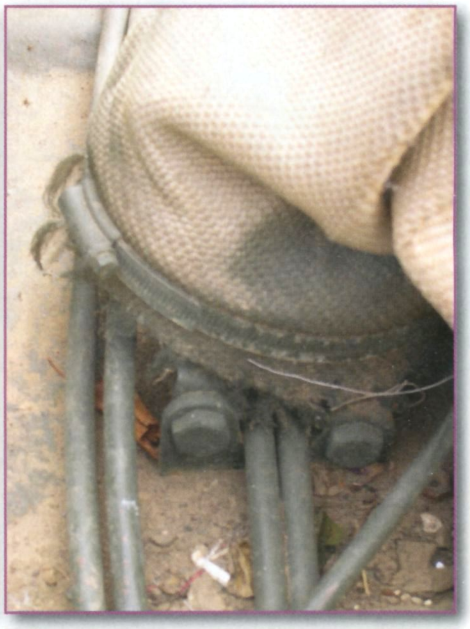
Exhaust manifold on the near side.



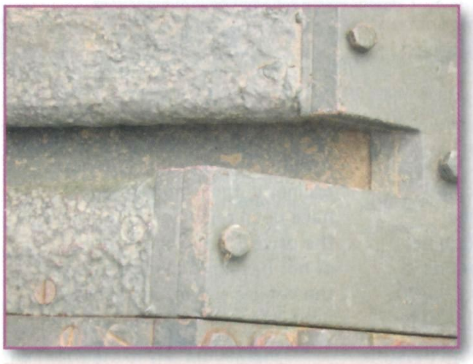
Spare track links with collapsed floatation screen tube lying on top. Floatation screen prop in folded position at foot of photo.



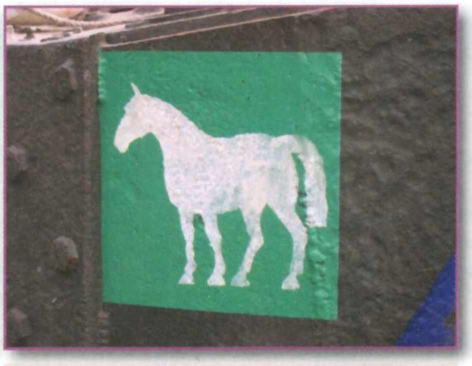
Exhaust manifold and fan cage on near side



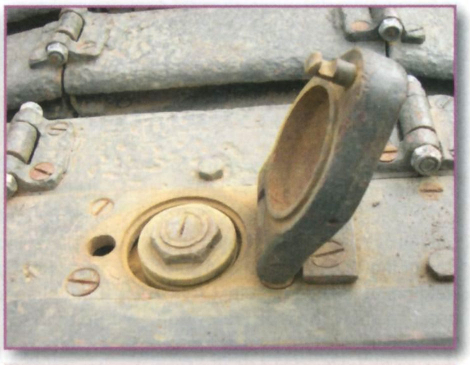
A giant sized jubilee clip holds the canvas inflation tube to the tank.



Close up of engine covers. Note the pitting on the left hand side, the original that John found using a metal detector, while the right hand side is the one John fabricated.



The White Horse – symbol of the 9th Armoured Division, the only Division to use the Valentine DD in action in Italy.



The armoured cover of the radiator cap in the up position.

◀ DRIVING THE VALENTINE

John describes the Valentine as 'technically very easy to drive, but physically quite demanding' as the levers are hard work - roadwork, with its lots of small steering adjustments being particularly tiring. (John did say that with the two part steering lever, he has noticed that with drive disconnected there is a slight tendency for the vehicle to steer in the direction just released. He also said it was so easy to drive that I could do it – and, yes, you bet I'm going back!) All the pedals are the same as your everyday road car, there is a synchromesh gear change but the lever is on the right. There are five forward and one reverse gear, but in a rather unusually patterned gearbox, with a latch stopping first and reverse gears being engaged accidentally - mostly John starts off in second gear although third is sometimes used if facing downhill. Incidentally some of the cogs in the gearbox weigh 40lbs.

The engine, the GMC 6.71 diesel unit - 6 cylinders with 71 cubic inches in capacity per cylinder making it a shade under 7 litres - develops 165 bhp, and how much does it cost to run? Well, the book says it should achieve 1 5/8 miles per gallon across country with an economical 2 ✢ mpg on the road.

Incidentally this is the same engine as used in a previous diesel land speed record, that of Virgil Snyder, in the Thermo King Streamliner in August 1973.

And, having taking twenty years to restore the Valentine DD, where would John take it for its maiden outing? Well, having heard about the Valentine DDs lying in Studland Bay, John set about organising a permanent memorial for the men of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards who died there. He also organised a memorial service and part of the commemoration was to drive the Valentine onto the beach in tribute to those who lost their lives. It is interesting that a memorial service has been held every year since then.

John Pearson is not only the custodian of the Valentine DD. He also owns:

- 1940 Universal Carrier in urgent need of repair. This is the current project of his 14 year old grandson, Jack.
- 1943 Daimler Dingo Scout Car MkII that featured in Chris Barrie's recent TV series.
- 1952 Saracen Mk 1. Chassis No 12 - the un up-armoured version which is great fun to drive.
- 1954 (Chassis) Humber Pig, Armoured Personnel Carrier. Currently for sale (for just over scrap value) if anyone is interested.
- 1955 Ferret Mk 2/3 which was in service until 1992 and rescued from its role as a gate guardian at a paintball site.
- 1956 Saracen Mk5 Ambulance. Currently for sale.
- 1958 Saladin with floatation screen on long-term loan from the Tank Museum which John is currently restoring.
- 1960 Bedford RL recovery tractor with crane that is on its way back to nature and was last used for assembling the Valentine turret pieces onto the turret ring.
- 1967 FV 438 Swingfire. The 432 with pop-up anti-tank missiles on the roof. ■

Commander's and Gunner's hatches open – it really is a close fit.

John's beautifully restored Valentine DD.

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1:35

MODEL KIT No 35475

Kapitän Saloon

WWII German Staff Car

- This particular kit is the first attempt of ICM to release Kapitän plastic kit in 1:35 scale into the market
- Highly detailed chassis, engine and interior
- 4 versions decal sheet included

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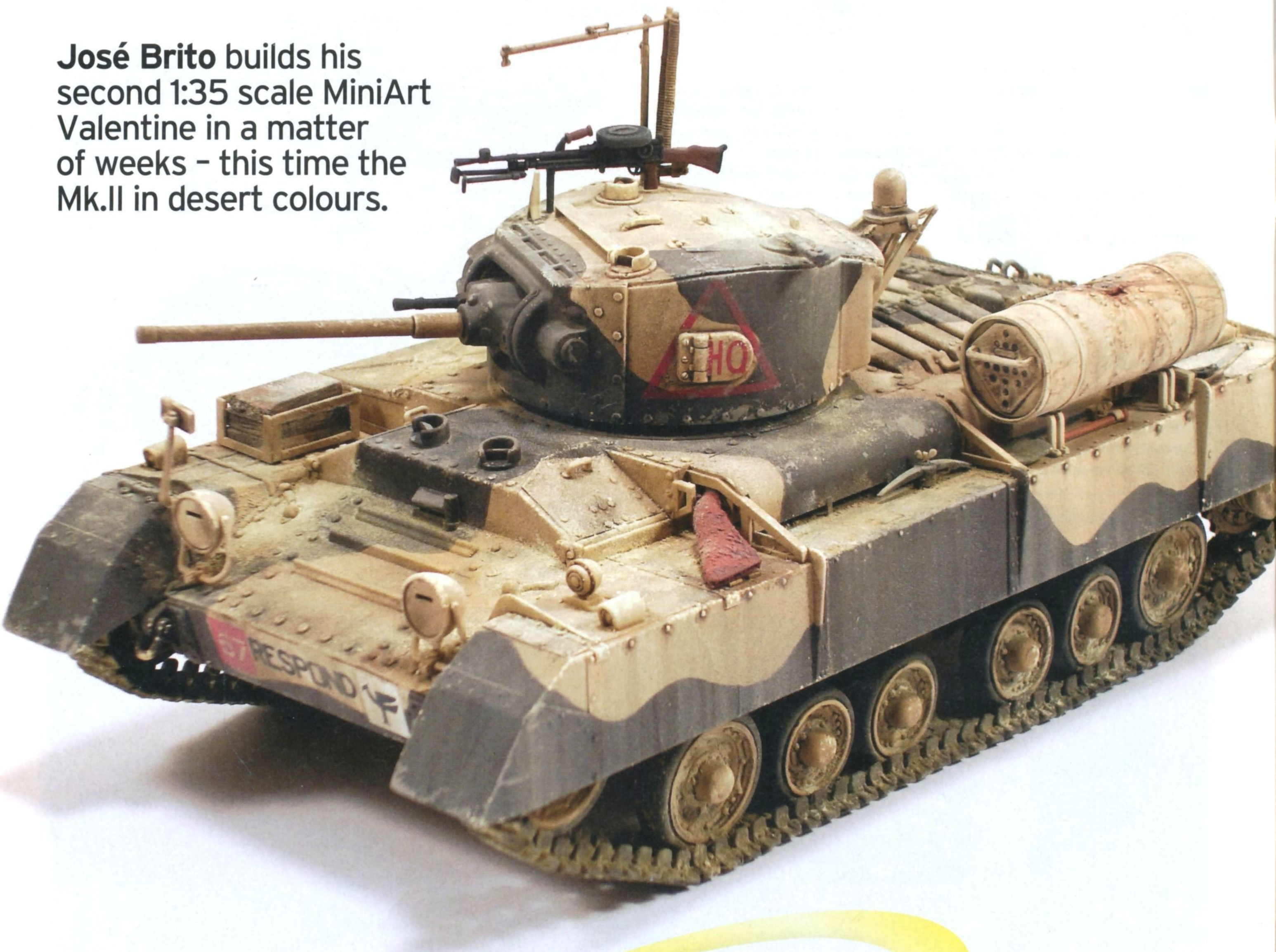
José Brito builds his second 1:35 scale MiniArt Valentine in a matter of weeks – this time the Mk.II in desert colours.



THE SAINT IN THE SUN

Why Valentine? There are several possible explanations for the name Valentine. According to the most popular story, the design was presented to the War Office on St. Valentine's Day, 14 February 1940. According to another version, the tank was called Valentine in honour of Sir John Valentine Carden, the man who led the development of the A10 and many other Vickers vehicles, who had died three years before.

Another version goes even further and says that Valentine is an acronym for Vickers-Armstrong Ltd Elswick & (Newcastle-upon) Tyne. The most prosaic is that it was just an in-house code word of Vickers with no other significance.

INTRODUCTION

Employed extensively in North Africa and earning a reputation of being reliable and well-protected, the Valentine tank shared the same weaknesses as other British tanks from the same period: the 2-pounder gun lacked high-explosive capability and very soon was out-dated as an anti-tank weapon too. Besides, the small sized turret combined with the turret ring made the mounting of larger guns an almost impossible task.

Several versions of the Valentine with larger and more powerful guns were developed, but by the time they were ready, better tanks were already fighting in the battlefield.

By the year 1944, the Valentine had been replaced in Commonwealth service by the Infantry Tank Mk.IV Churchill and by the Sherman in the European Theatre. Only in the Pacific did the Valentine remain in service until May 1945.

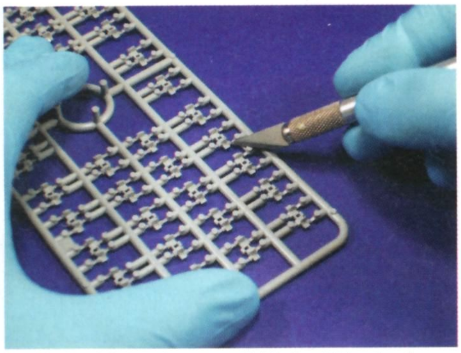
In Soviet service, the Valentine was used from the Battle of Moscow until the end of the war.

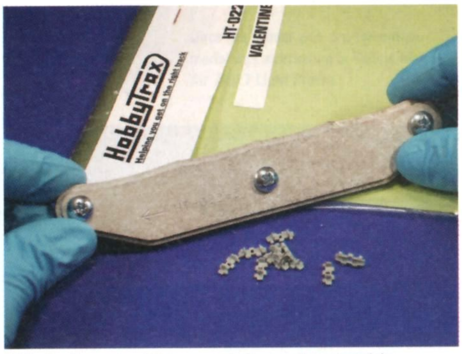
The Valentine was a low speed vehicle armed with a weak gun, but is small size, reliability and good armour protection made it very popular amongst its the crews.

In the North African campaign, the Valentine served for the first time in Operation Crusader, when it began to replace the Matilda tank.

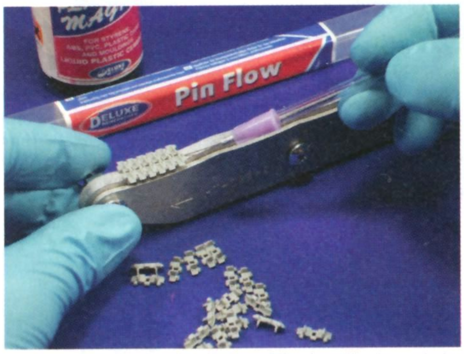
THE MINIART VALENTINE MK II IN 1:35

The new 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.II from MiniArt is a really nice kit and provides all that we need to produce a great replica straight

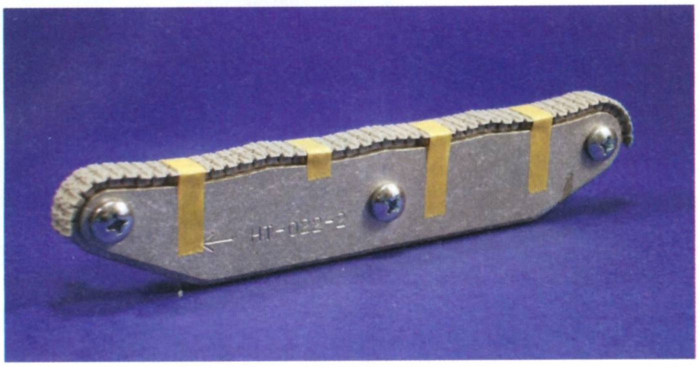

Individual track links look great on a finished model, but they do require careful preparation and assembly.



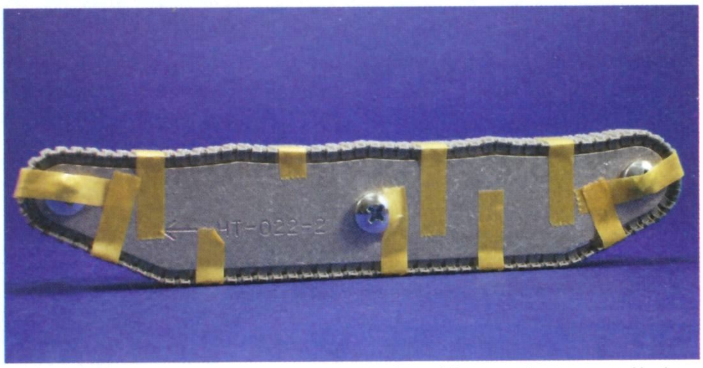
HobbyTrax's new track jigs are made for a variety of models. They make the job of assembling individual tracks much easier.



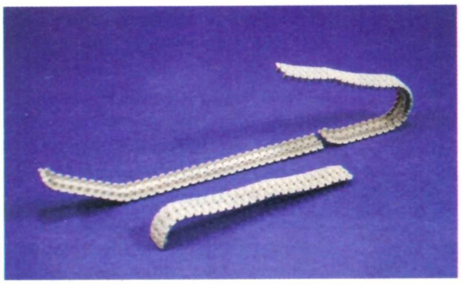
The links are simply placed on the jig and the ultra-thin glue works by capillary action, drawn into the tiny gaps between the plastic parts.

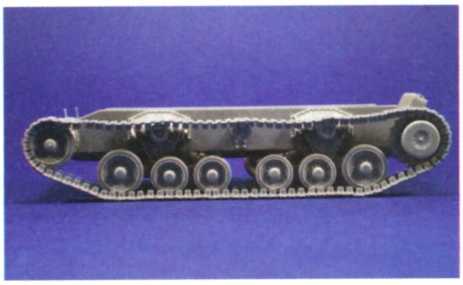


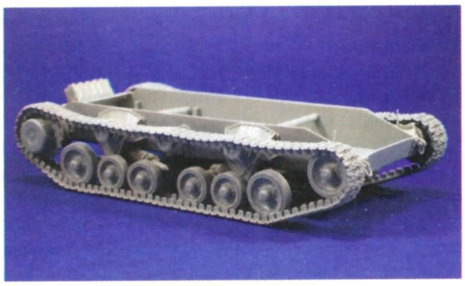
Here, the top run has been finished in next to no time.



One full track has now been completed. Note the authentic drape of the top track run guaranteed by the shape of the jig.


Three breaks were left in each track side so that the parts could be removed from the jig and reassembled on the model.


In this photo, one side is test-fitted to the model.


Both tracks have now been glued in place.

from the box. The kit is made in an ultra fine grey plastic with very subtle surface detail. The fit is top quality and the overall model very accurate.

Inside the box we are also presented with decals for five different versions, photo-etched parts, crisply printed decals, three figures and individual track links. What more could we ask for? Well, we can always ask for the box-art… and guess what! The box-art is also very beautiful and attractive.

The MiniArt Valentines are so nice that this is the second Valentine that I have built in the last few weeks. The earlier one was MiniArt's 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.IV from the Operation Bagration diorama that appeared in Issue 72 of Model Military International magazine.

CONSTRUCTION

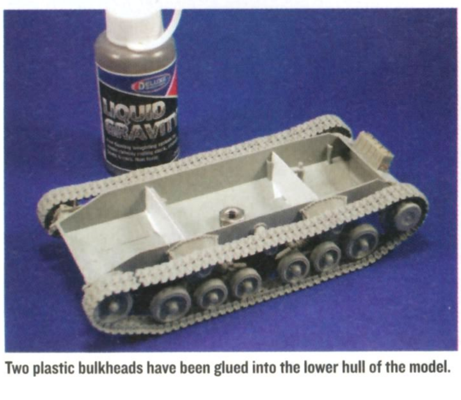
Construction started with the assembly of the individual track links. MiniArt provides individual links and the detail is great. Minor clean-up is necessary but no ejection pin marks are visible.

A brand new scalpel blade was used in order to remove the links. Then, fine sandpaper was used to clean the parts.

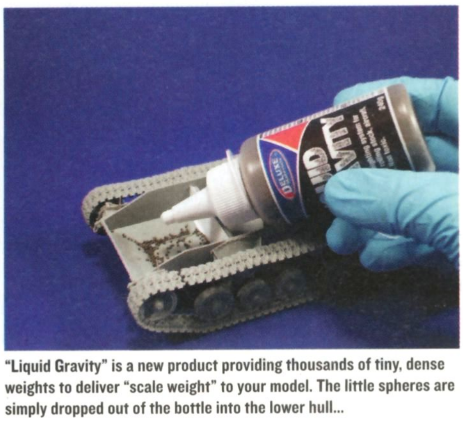
Hobbytrax HT-22-2 is a very useful tool when it comes the Valentine tracks assembly. Their slogan is: "Helping you get on the right track" and in fact this tool transforms a potential nightmare into a walk in the park. We all know that assembling individual plastic tracks links can be a real pain, but with this new tool, forget about it. This will be a breeze!

All we need to do is place the tracks in the right place and then use an ultra-thin plastic glue. In these cases I only trust Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic Glue. For the best results, I use their Pin Magic applicator. Pin Magic applicator will allow an ultra control, because, believe me, this glue is extremely thin - ideal to work in the capillary mode.

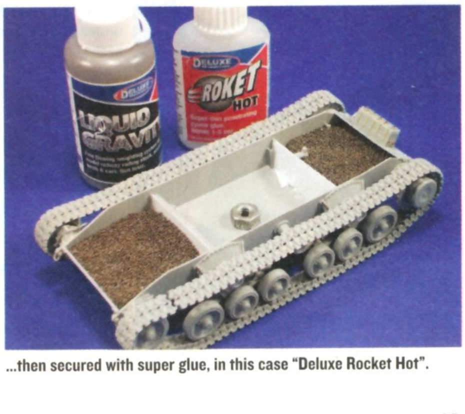
To hold everything in pace and to get a better result, the tracks may be held in place with the help of ▶



Two plastic bulkheads have been glued into the lower hull of the model.

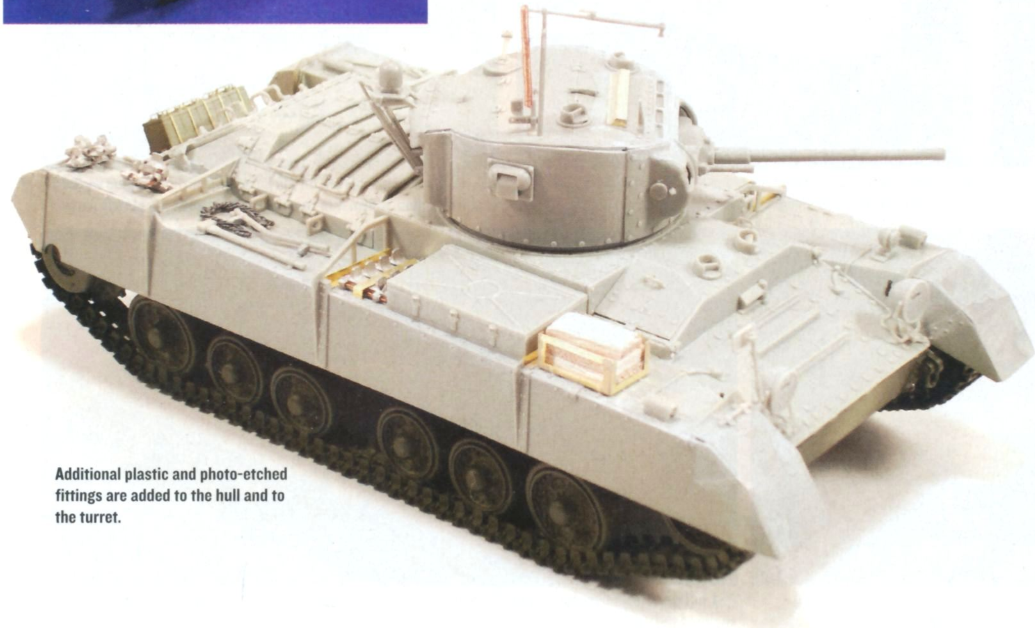


"Liquid Gravity" is a new product providing thousands of tiny, dense weights to deliver "scale weight" to your model. The little spheres are simply dropped out of the bottle into the lower hull…

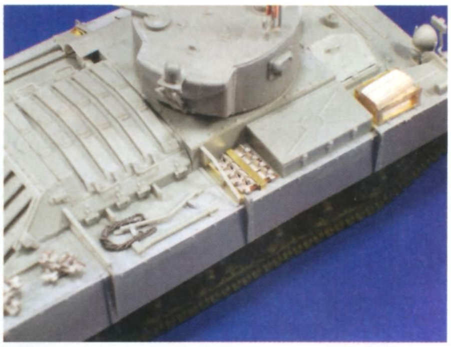


…then secured with super glue, in this case "Deluxe Rocket Hot".

The upper hull is now fitted, and the turret is checked for fit too.



Additional plastic and photo-etched fittings are added to the hull and to the turret.



Spare track links, tow lines and stowage boxes make the hull a busy place.

The counterbalance spring for the Bren Gun was carefully coiled from copper wire.

Tristar's masking tape. For better results we must leave the tracks in place for about 24 hours. This will allow the glue to fully dry and then will be almost indestructible.

Once in place, the results are awesome and very accurate. The assembling process only takes a few minutes! We only have to wait for the glue to fully dry.

Attention! The tracks must not be fully assembled, otherwise and as you can imagine it will be impossible to remove them from the tool. So, several lengths must be built separately and then glued in the model. This is very important. Never build and glue the entire length.

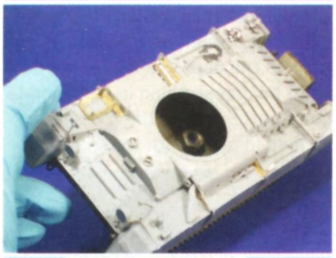
The fit is just perfect and Hobbytrax really achieve the correct sag. The best part is that we can use this tool for the assembly of plastic, rubber and metal tracks. The results will always be perfect.

Truly accurate results can be achieved with these tools. Also, we can use them as many times we need.

To add weight to the model I decided to try a new approach using the new product, Liquid Gravity, from Deluxe Materials. This is a free flowing weighting system for all kind of models from railway to planes, and armour models. All we have to do is drop the small spheres inside the model. Gravity will do the rest. Please note that this material is really heavy and will make the model heavier so pay attention to the running gear and see if it can hold it. Otherwise the weight increase may damage the suspension.

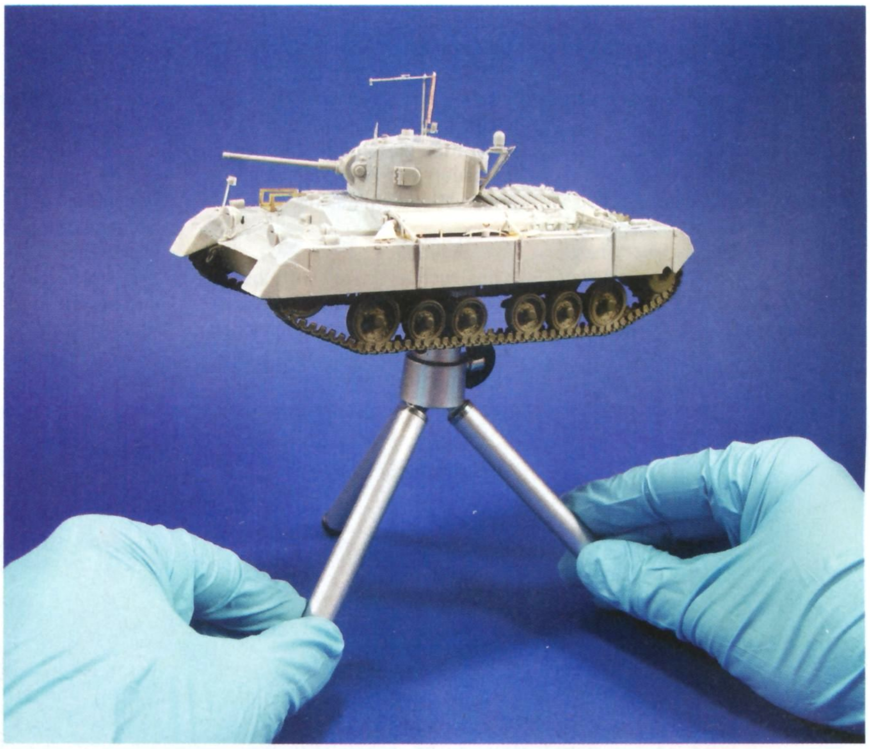
With the Liquid Gravity in place, all we have to do is apply Deluxe Material's Rocket Hot Glue. Being a very thin and super strong glue, is ideal to use as capillarity and reach all spots.

This is a small camera tripod, but it has a modelling application too!



A hole has been drilled in the bottom of the hull and a screw, matching the thread of the tripod, has been glued inside.

The tripod may now easily be attached to the bottom of the hull.



Voila - instant handle! This will make things easier and cleaner during the painting process.

71027
MODEL
Air
AV

Once the primer was dry, the entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71027 Light Brown.

PAINTING

The model was fully assembled and soon is ready to be primed in grey. The running gear parts were previously primed in a dark colour because they are in complicated spots and hard to airbrush properly. So, they were primed first.

This model is composed of several materials. It is obvious that the photo-etch fret provided by MiniArt covers the entire model and no spot was forgotten. The several materials, combined, really improve the model.

In the end we have plastic, photo-etch, metal wire and balsa wood, so a good primer will be necessary to prepare a uniform surface. Also, a good primer provides the base for a good paint finish, so we must not neglect this stage.

The entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Surface Primer 74601 Grey Primer. Vallejo primers dry very fast and make the surface very smooth, ideal for airbrushing. They must be airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail.

Once the primer was dry, the entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71027 Light Brown. Like the primer, this was airbrushed in several layers in order to maintain the fine surface detail.

To achieve the Zenith Transformation, the model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71027 Light Brown and Vallejo Model Air 71075 Sand.

I do not like the colour modulation approach. In my opinion the Zenith Transformation approach turns the model much more interesting and much better represents the natural or solar illumination.

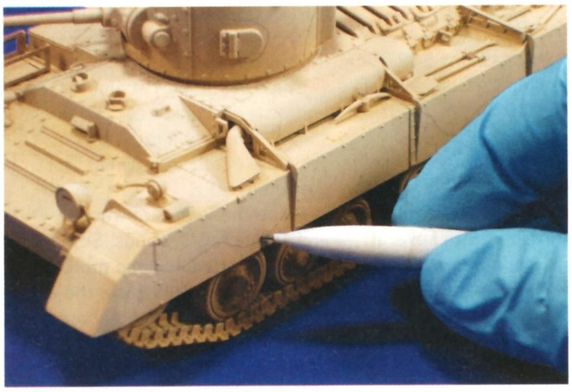
The camouflage pattern was directly drawn over the entire model with the help of a very soft pencil. Some care is needed in order to not damage the paint job.

This can be a very time consuming process and some extra patience is needed in order to get the best results.

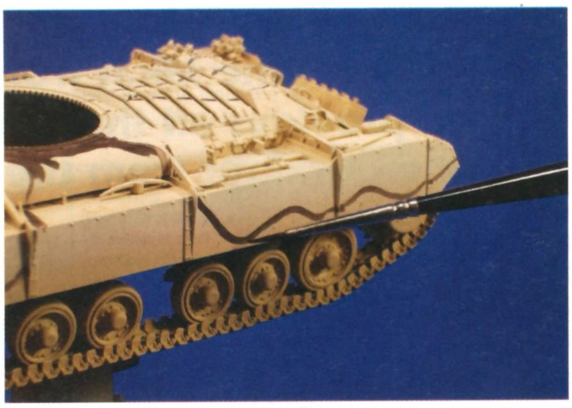
The disruptive camouflage was brush painted in Vallejo Model Color 822 SS Camo Black Brown. In order to keep the surface details, the ▶

71027
71075
MODEL
Air

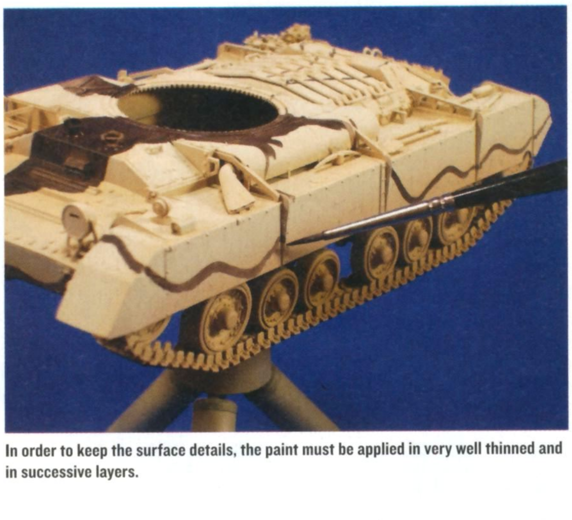
To achieve the Zenith Transformation, the model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71027 Light Brown and Vallejo Model Air 71075 Sand.



The camouflage pattern was directly drawn over the entire model with the help of a very soft pencil.



The disruptive camouflage was brush painted in Vallejo Model Color 822 SS Camo Black Brown.



In order to keep the surface details, the paint must be applied in very well thinned and in successive layers.

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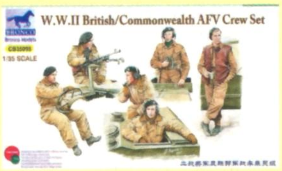
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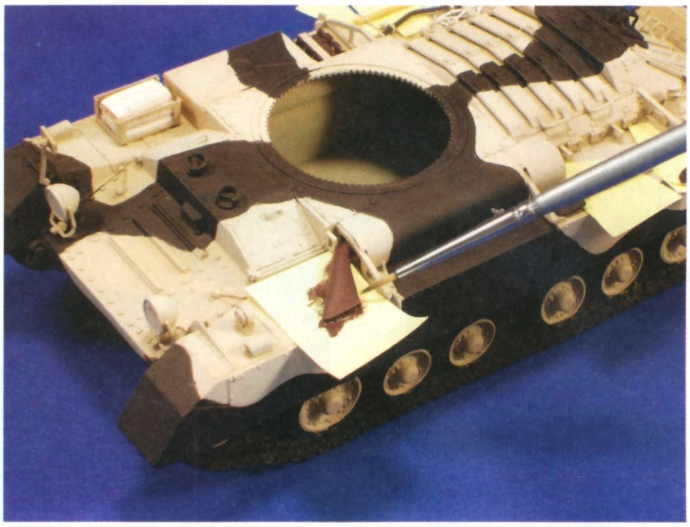
MODEL COLOR
acrilico-vinilico
AV
vallejo
150
822

Each layer was allowed to fully dry before applying the next one.



Small "Post-It Notes" were placed between the tools and the model. Using these as masks, we can paint the desired parts and not destroy the model surface.

paint must be applied in very well thinned and in successive layers. We must allow the layers to fully dry before we apply a new one.

The tools were picked in several Vallejo Model Color colors. Small "Post-It Notes" were placed between the tools and the model. Using these as masks, we can paint the desired parts and not destroy the model surface.

The exhaust pipe was painted in Vallejo Model Color 985 Hull Red and then received a coat of Vallejo Pigments 73108 Brown Iron Oxide.

The wooden parts were also painted in MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Modelling Oil Colors. In this case in the 070 Dark Rust. The oil color was brushed in successive layers. This will represent very well the wood pattern.

Time for the decals. The entire model was airbrushed with several coats of Vallejo Model Air 70510 Gloss Varnish. This ensured that the surface was very smooth and ideal to receive the decals.

We must apply some Vallejo Decal Fix 73213 in the appropriate areas. This is a setting solution and will increase the decal setting in the surface.

Use a brand new scalpel blade and a steel ruler to cut the decal sheet. The decals must be cut very close to the drawing. Watch your fingers!

Place the decals in water and wait a few seconds. Some company's decals need more time than others. In this case, the ones from MiniArt only need about 30 seconds to detach from the backing paper. Place the decals in the desired spot... and then remove the water excess with the help of a cotton bud.

To finish the process, all we need to do is apply a coat of Vallejo 73212 Decal Medium. This product will soften the decal and increase the setting. In fact this product will almost destroy the decal. The decal might have a bad look, but no worries, once the Vallejo Decal Medium is completely dry, the decal will look great and will appear as if it has been painted on the surface.

To finish the job, the entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air Matt Varnish. The varnish will protect and seal the decal.

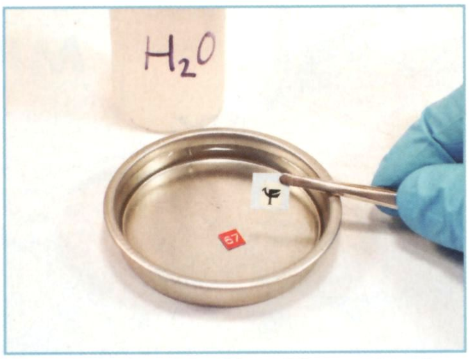
> **"The new 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.II from MiniArt is a really nice kit and provides all that we need to produce a great replica straight from the box..."**

The entire model was airbrushed with several coats of Vallejo Model Air 70510 Gloss Varnish. This ensured that the surface was very smooth and ideal to receive the decals.

100% ACRYLIC RESIN
GLOSS VARNISH
70.510
BARNIZ BRILLANTE
GLANZ FIRNIS
AV
vallejo

We must apply some Vallejo Decal Fix 73213 in the appropriate areas. This is a setting solution and will increase the decal setting in the surface.

Use a brand new scalpel blade and a steel ruler to cut the decal sheet but watch your fingers! The decals should be cut very close to the artwork.



MiniArt's decals only need about 30 seconds in water to detach from the backing paper.

The decals are carefully applied with the help of a pair of tweezers.

The excess water is removed with the tip of a cotton bud.

To finish the decaling, we apply a coat of Vallejo 73212 Decal Medium. This product will soften the decal and improve the setting.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

Time for the weathering and finishing.

I wanted to represent a tank with some battle scars and with the look of a veteran vehicle. The weathering started by applying thousands of small scratches. The process started with the help of a small sponge and ended using a very fine brand new brush. Several colours were used in order to achieve a more realistic look.

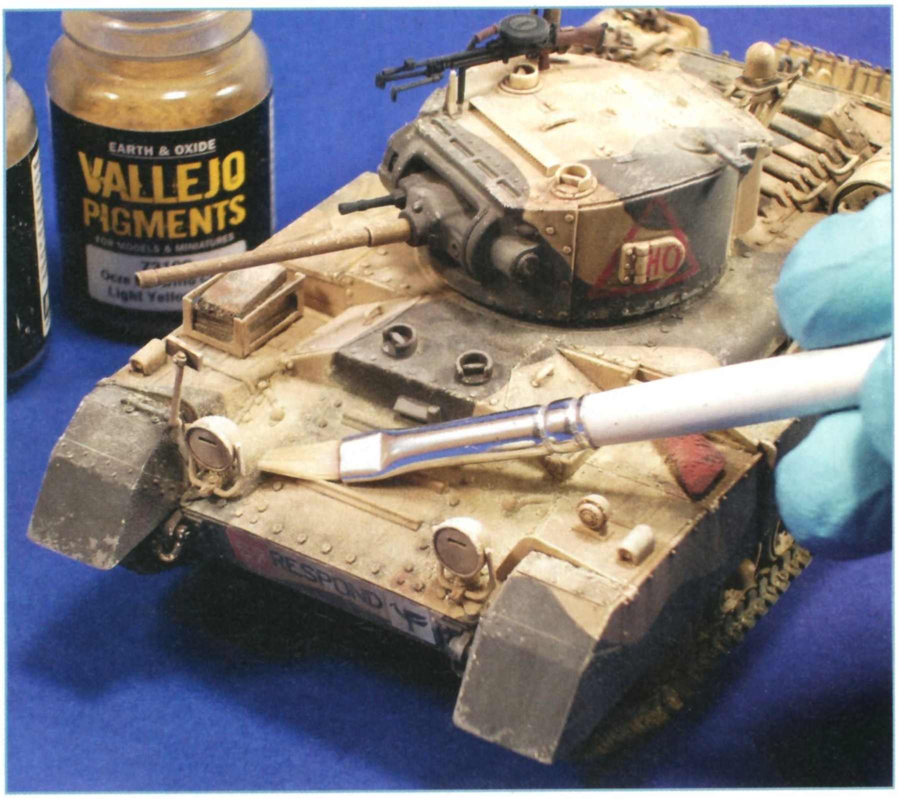
Several Vallejo pigment colours were applied in order to obtain a dusty finish. In this case they were applied in the "dry method". The "dry method" means that they are applied directly from the jar and then they will later be fixed in place.

The pigments were fixed in place with Winsor & Newton Artists' White Spirit. All we have to do is apply several drops over the pigments by brush and let it dry without touching the surface. During this process the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the White Spirit evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

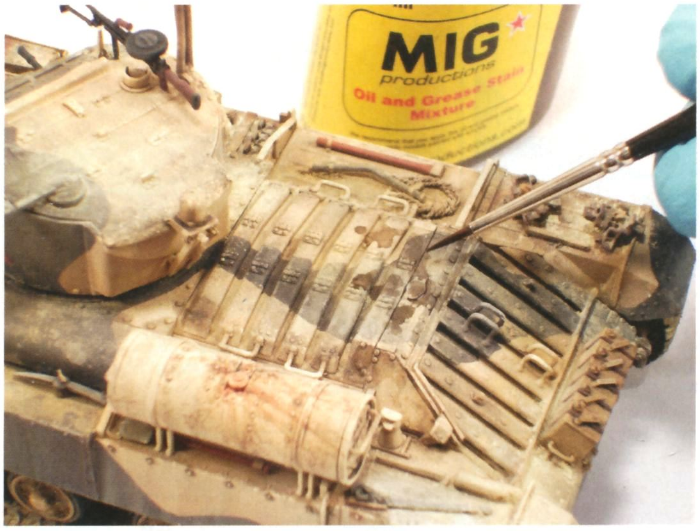
MIG Productions' Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were used in order to get more realistic effects. These products can really improve a model and bring them to life. ▶

Weathering started by applying thousands of small scratches with a small sponge

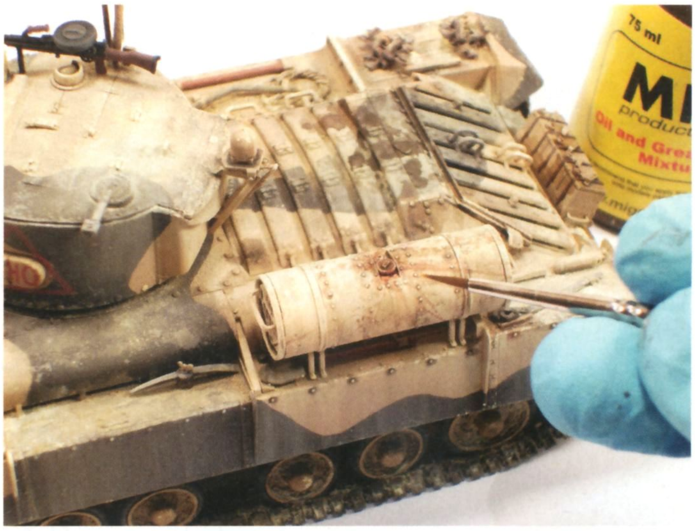
More specific scratches were next added with the tip of a fine brush.



Vallejo pigment colours were applied in order to get the dusty look.



The pigments were fixed in place with Winsor & Newton Artists' White Spirit. All we have to do is apply, by brush, several drops over the pigments and leave it to dry without touching the surface.



MIG Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were used in order to get more realistic effects.

CONCLUSION

MiniArt's 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.II is a lovely kit that may be transformed into a stunning model even if built straight from the box.

This is the second MiniArt's Valentine that I have built in the last few weeks and this time I did not spend any time fixing the wheel size. In my opinion, this is not a big issue and once the model is finished, that issue will not be noticeable. I decided to correct the wheels in my previous Valentine Mk.IV (Operation Bagration diorama), but this time I did not waste my time. It simply was not worth it. ■

> "MIG Productions' Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were used in order to get more realistic effects. These products can really improve a model and bring them to life..."

Modelspec

MiniArt, 1:35 British Infantry Tank Mk.III, Valentine Mk.II w/crew **Kit No. 35096**

Materials Accessories Used:

Hood glue, Deluxe Materials glue solutions, HobbyTrax Tool - HT 022 - Valentine, Heat isolation foam, Wood base, Injected plastic, Resin parts, Plastic card, Metal parts

Paints & Finishing Products:

Vallejo primers, acrylics, washes, pigments, pastes and thinners
MIG Productions oils, washes, filters and thinners
Winsor & Newton oil colours and thinners
Graphite soft pencil
Aguaplast - Robbialac
Fine sand
Plus Model Lead Wire

References Used:

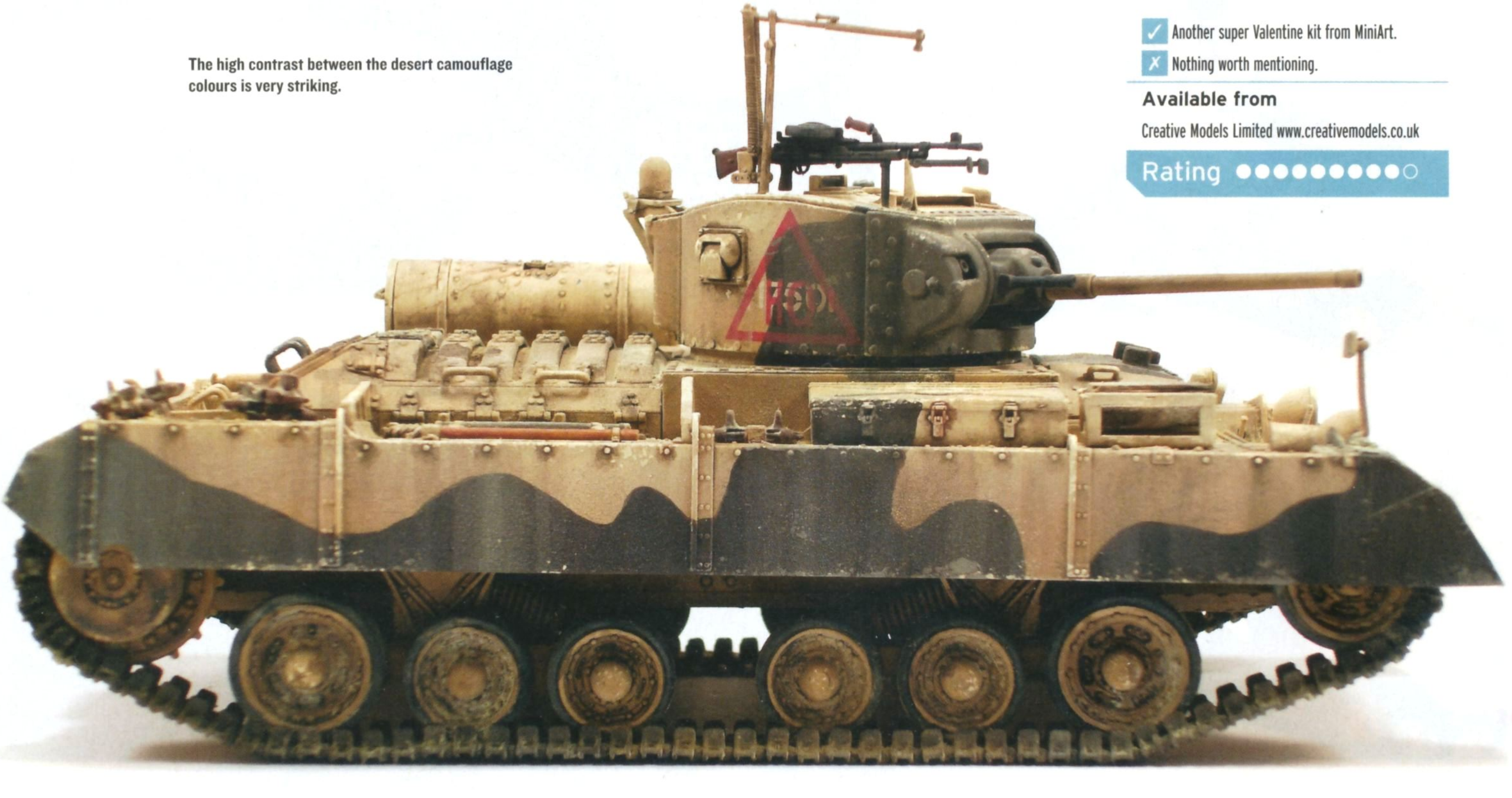
Several internet sites and forums

✓ Another super Valentine kit from MiniArt.
✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

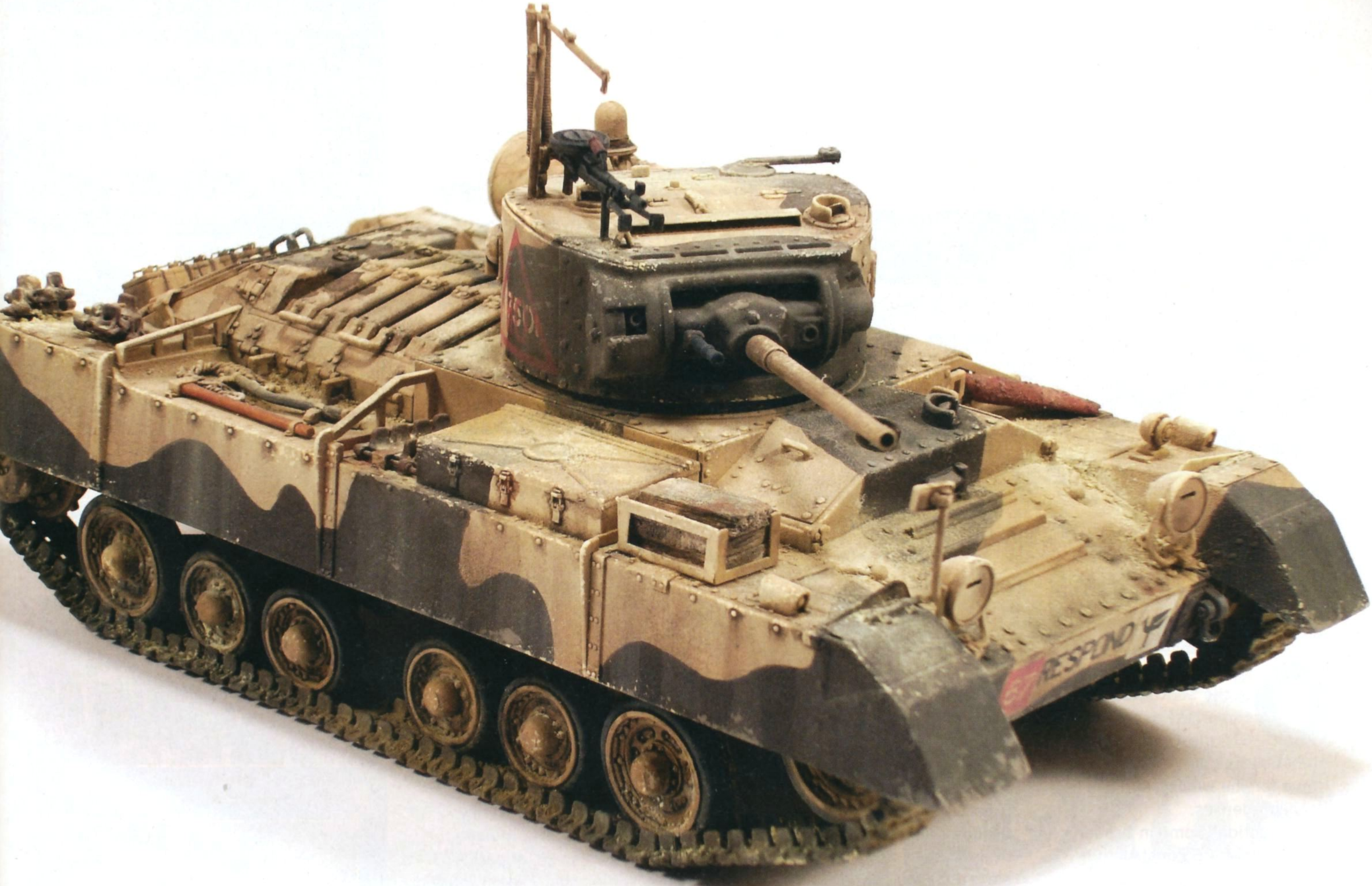
Available from

Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

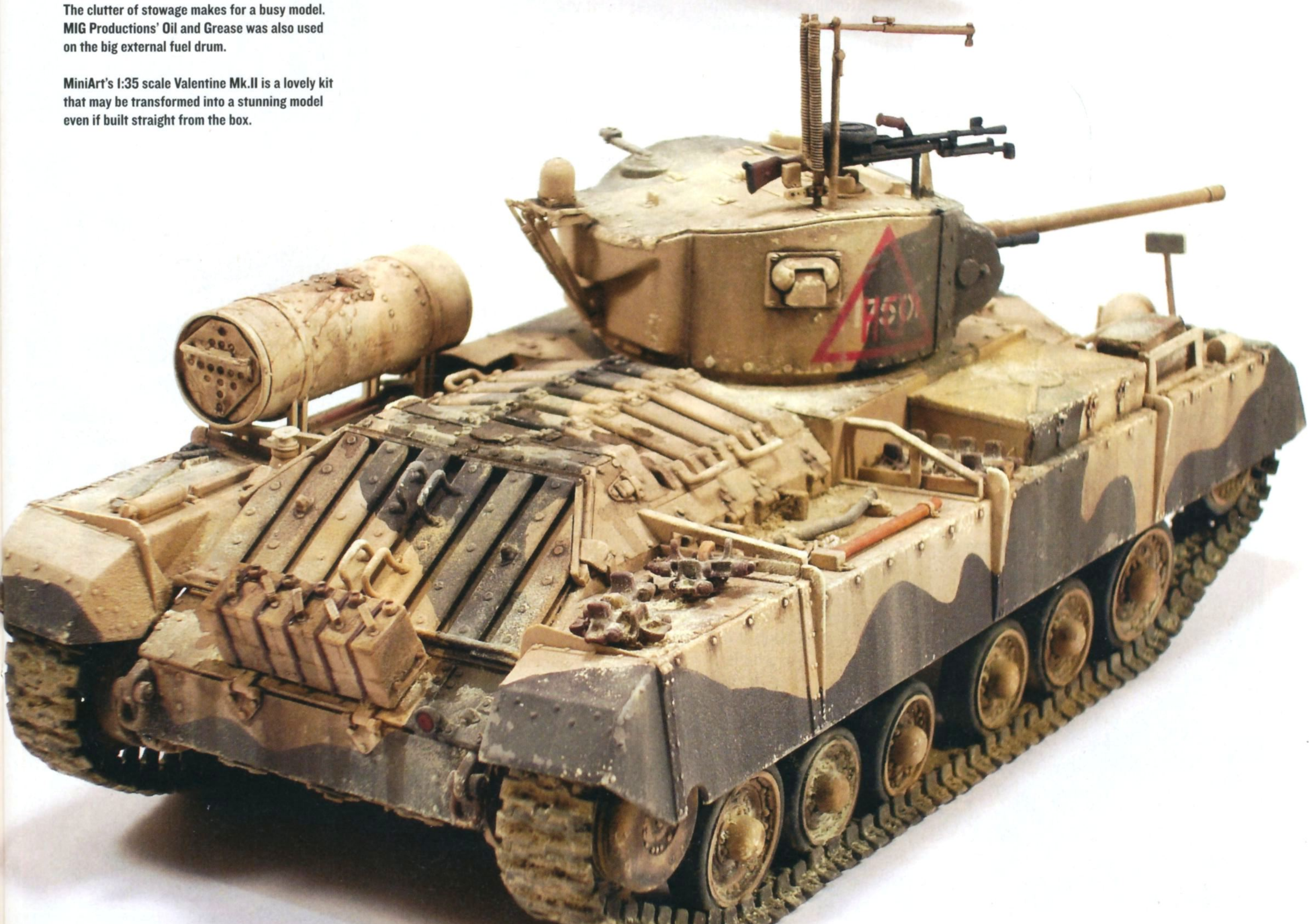


The high contrast between the desert camouflage colours is very striking.



The clutter of stowage makes for a busy model. MIG Productions' Oil and Grease was also used on the big external fuel drum.

MiniArt's 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.II is a lovely kit that may be transformed into a stunning model even if built straight from the box.



1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Sd.Kfz.10/5 w/Armored Cab für 2cm FlaK 38
Smart Kit
DRAGON

Graham Tetley finds that some of the errors of earlier kits have been corrected on Dragon's new 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz.10/5 with Armoured Cab fur 2cm Flak 38.

ARMOURED FLAK TRACK

Dragon's latest addition to the Sd.Kfz.10 family comprises approximately 675 plastic parts and 109 etched pieces, along with a clear sprue for the windscreen and headlight lenses.

Instructions come in Dragon's usual format: 25 construction steps where some contain multiple sub-assemblies. They are cluttered, but take your time and you will prevail.

Previously, this kit was released as kit 6676, however there were issues with the tracks, drive sprockets and the gun barrel for the Flak was too short. Added to this, the engine was (and still is) lacking in detail and we have very little in the way of spare ammunition, which Dragon could have included. This version of the vehicle provides us with a new gun barrel, new drive sprockets as well as a new sprue 'E' for the additional armour, but other than that it is identical to the previous release. Not being one for a detailed engine, the omissions do not bother me as the engine compartment will be closed on my model, but if it concerns you then forewarned is forearmed.

Detail throughout is clean and crisp and there are no mould blemishes or flash on my example. The tracks are of the 'Magic' type and come with separate track pads and shoes. Optional front road wheels are provided; you can either go for the convention two-part type or the more detailed 5-part type. The Flak gun is Dragon's well-used example and, whilst it does not have moveable elevation, you can fit it at 3 different elevation levels.

Turning to the construction of the kit, we naturally start off with the road wheels and suspension. Some months ago I built the Cyberhobby kit with the Pak 36 and, as most parts are identical, those experiences apply here.

The road wheel arms B64 are a little sloppy in their attachment, so I recommend fitting them to the road wheels first and then putting a spacer underneath the hull to get it all level. I would also advise fitting the front road wheel unit to the kit right at the very end as Part A23 (that the wheels mount to) are fragile and prone to bending with the wheels attached. Best practice is to fit the tracks at this stage, then fit the front steering assembly so that everything sits level and true. You can skip the engine in Steps 3 and 4 if you are gluing the bonnet closed, but the transmission in steps 5 and 6 you have to include. My experience with the transmission is that it is very fiddly – a lot of the parts are small and fragile and are prone to breaking when you remove them from the sprue.

DRAGON
Magic Track

The goodie bags! All the multimedia parts are in these.

The location of parts is vague in the instructions so great care is needed. Do not fit the optional boxes parts B52 & B36 until you have fixed the transmission to the hull.

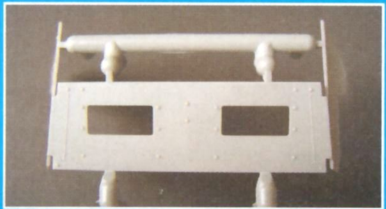
The cab area is beautifully detailed with decals provided for the dials. Be careful of part A73 as it is so fine that mine fractured when removing it from the sprue. When you get to the bonnet, it is best to fit parts A28 and A31 to the chassis before the radiator assembly. Once dry, use the grille (A63) to then align the bonnet parts correctly.

Our attention now turns to the rear bed and mounting for the Flak gun. The lattice work underneath is nicely done, and to that we add the folding side walls. These can be placed either up or down and etched mesh is provided, as well as etched mountings for the ammunition boxes.

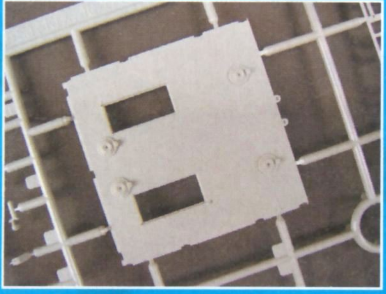
Probably the highlight of this kit for me is the rifle stowage rack that goes on the front fender, but to finish it off we turn to the flak gun itself. It fits neatly into the mounts on the bed, and this is finished off with some crew seats. As mentioned previously, you will have to furnish extra ammunition from your spares box as Dragon only provide enough for the boxes affixed to the folding walls.

In summary, this kit does have its niggles. Most of the previous kit's faults have been corrected and if, like me, you can live without the engine then it poses no major problems. My advice is to take care with assembly, don't rush it, and plan at least two construction stages ahead at all times. You will be rewarded with a fine model if you do. ■

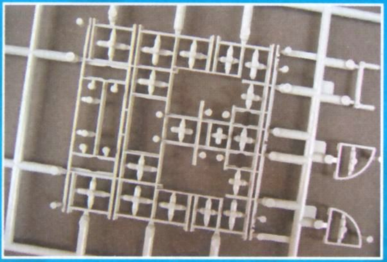
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net



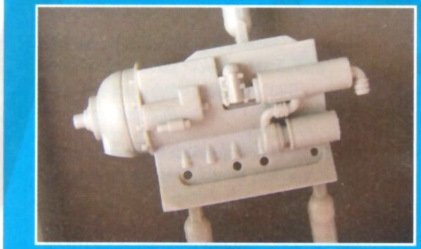
Detail on the new armoured cab.



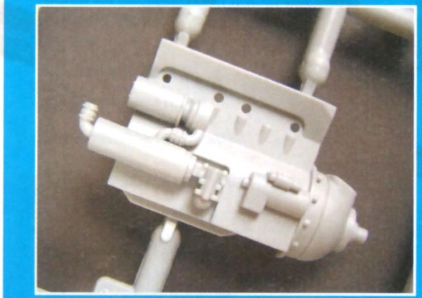
The Flak gun bed.



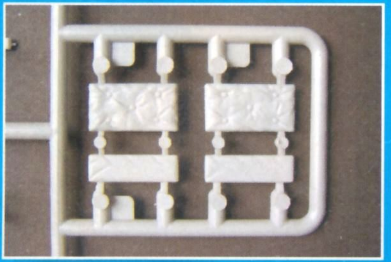
The lattice work on the bed – shame about all those moulding attachment points!



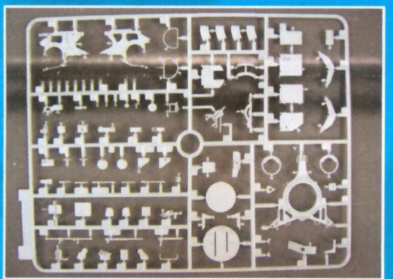
The engine block.



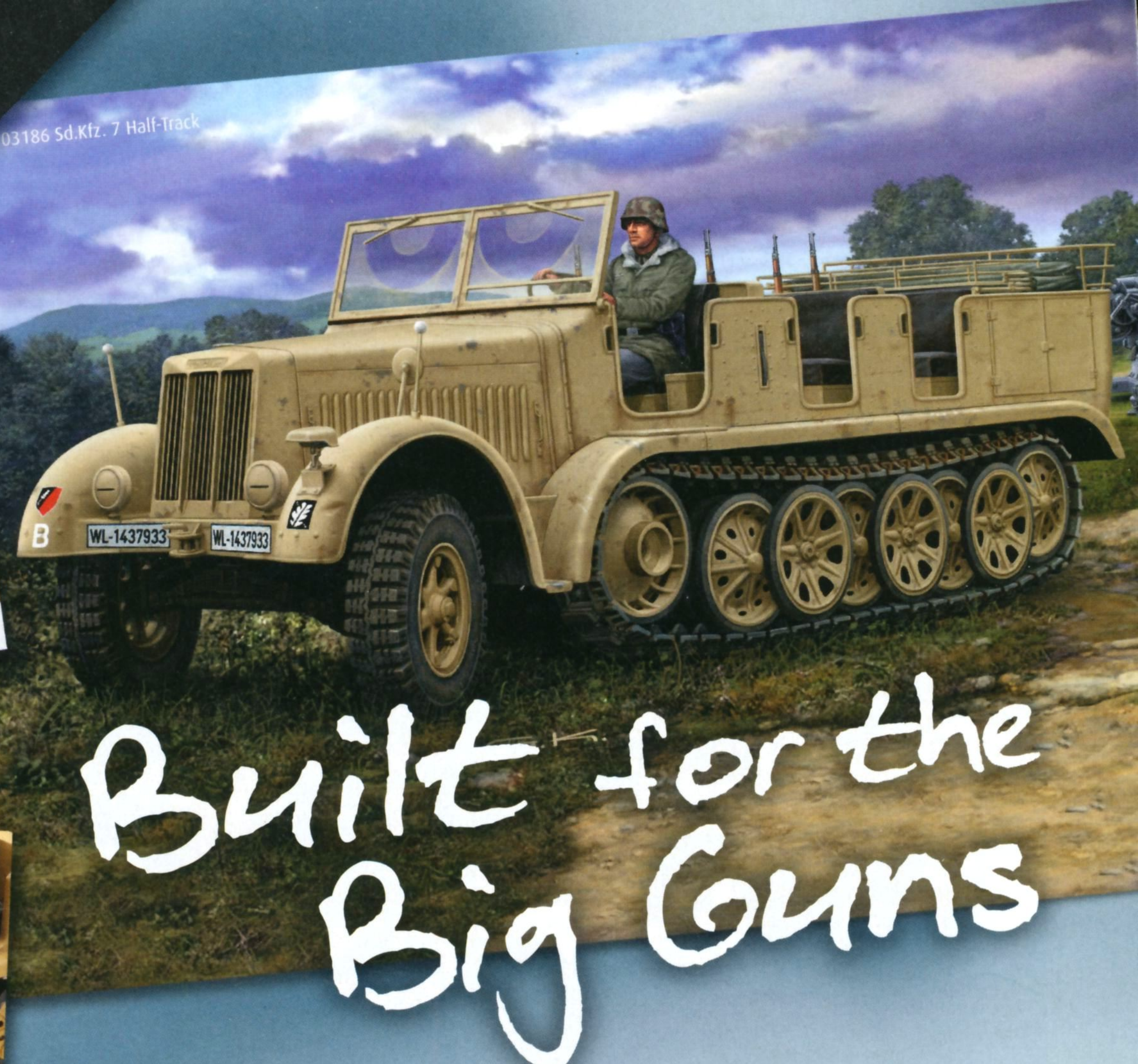
Engine detail. Note that most of the elements are moulded integrally.



I wonder if the crewmen found these comfortable?



The Flak gun in all its beauty.



Model detail

Model detail

Also available: 8.8cm Flak in 1:72
03174

1:72 Sonder-Kraftfahrzeug 7

03186

The iconic Sonder-Kraftfahrzeug 7 (Sd.Kfz. 7) was one of the main half-tracks used by the German army throughout World War II. It's ability to tow up to 8 tonne loads made it ideal as a battlefield tractor and it was frequently used to haul the 8.8cm Flak anti-aircraft gun as well as other heavy artillery pieces. Although having a relatively low road speed, the Sd.Kfz. 7 delivered excellent off-road performance leading to its secondary use as a recovery vehicle.

First introduced in 1938, the vehicle could carry gun crews of up to 12 men in theatre-style seats, under which was plenty of storage space for their tools and equipment. The rear section had an enclosed compartment that could be used for carrying ammunition, although a second ammunition carriage was preferable.

While produced in large numbers, there were never enough to fully equip the German forces. Typically, the artillery elements of Panzer and Panzer Grenadier units received them, while others continued to rely on horses to draw their guns. However, later variants of the Sd.Kfz. 7 were developed as self-propelled anti-aircraft platforms featuring both 20mm and 37mm guns.

Model details:
- Finely engraved surface detail
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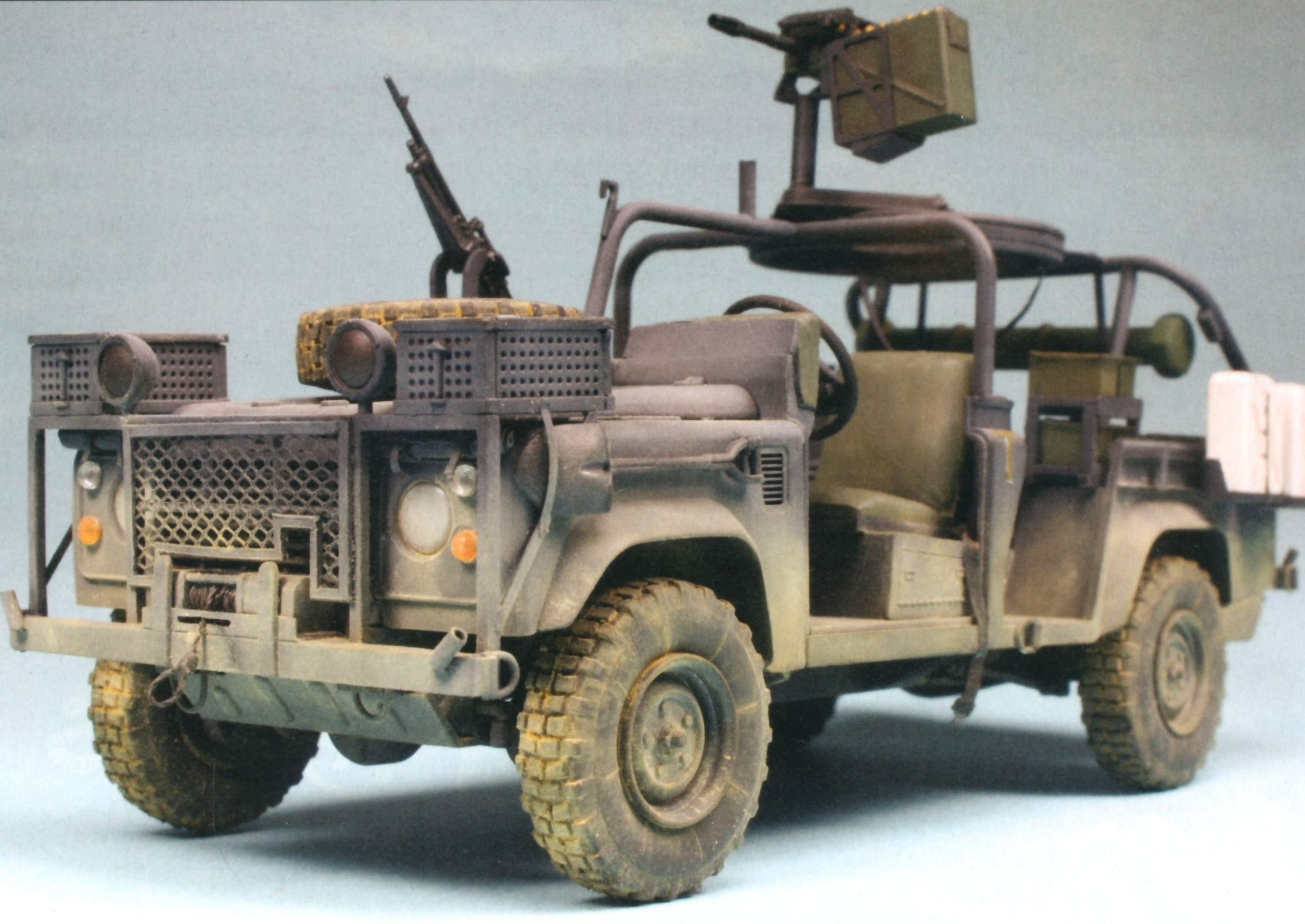


TWEAKING AN RSOV

Andy King corrects and details the new HobbyBoss 1:35 scale US Rangers' Land Rover RSOV.

The Ranger Special Operations Vehicle (RSOV) is a highly modified version of the Land Rover Defender 110 (110 denotes the length of the wheelbase) and used primarily by the US Army 75th Ranger Regiment. The vehicle was a replacement for the Ford M151 jeep, entering service in 1992. In addition to the RSOV, it comes in two other guises; a MEDSOV (Medical Special Operations Vehicle) capable of carrying 6 stretchers for the evacuation of injured troops and the mortar carrying MORTSOV.

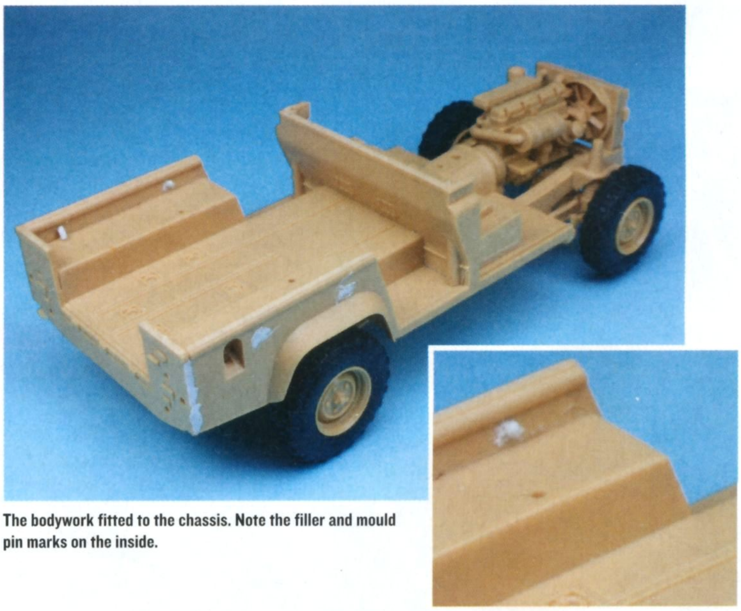
A section of two vehicles would have either a M240 machine gun, .50 cal mg and Mk.19 Grenade Launcher mounted plus ammunition and the crew would consist of a driver/ team leader, a truck commander (TC) and a top gunner although up to seven soldiers can be carried depending on mission requirements.

Weighing in at over 7000lbs (3,175 kg) and with a Land Rover 300TDi four-cylinder diesel engine, the vehicle can travel up to 200 miles (320 km) plus it is air transportable by CH-47 and MH-53 helicopters.

HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale Land Rover RSOV the latest variant in their 1:35 scale Land Rover Defender family and contains over 270 parts. There are eight sprues moulded in tan styrene with a single clear sprue for the lights, five vinyl tyres, a fret of brass etch and a small water slide decal sheet.

I reviewed this kit a couple of issues ago and on the whole it looked to be okay and fairly accurate. After sending the review off for publishing I did some more digging for info as the vehicle intrigued me. After finding some history on the web and studying the few photographs available of the actual vehicle it was apparent that some things needed changing to make it more representative of an RSOV.

It seems HobbyBoss has based the kit on an early demonstration vehicle as some of the pictures I found seem to bear out. I also stated in my initial review that two other versions were fielded by the US Army Rangers; the mortar carrier (MORTSOV) and medical evacuation vehicle (MEDSOV) however there is another nick-named 'The Shark' and this is a 'C2SOV' (Command and Control Special Operations Vehicle). As you would imagine, it is packed with all sorts of classified communication equipment although unlike the others it has a Hard Top fitted on the back to cover the gear.



The bodywork fitted to the chassis. Note the filler and mould pin marks on the inside.

CONSTRUCTION

Starting with the powerplant, HobbyBoss supplies a pretty good replica of the 300TDi diesel engine that comprises some 16 parts. It is missing the alternator but unless you are going to have the bonnet open its not going to be an issue and as I was going to keep it firmly shut it went together as is.

The chassis is a multi-part assembly and after gluing it together I left it to set on a flat surface to make sure it was square and level. The rear of the chassis is fairly visible so when set the gap between the two chassis halves was filled and sanded.

The fit of the power transfer case (Parts A37 and A57) is vague in section 2 of the instructions and I found it better to glue it to the gear box first then fit the prop shafts to the front and back axles.

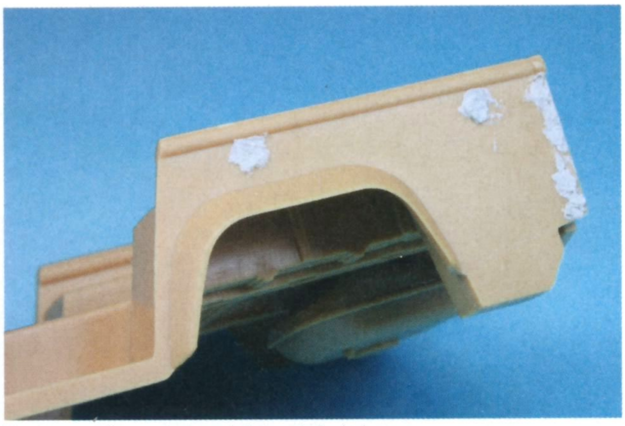
Another detail to address is the tie down shackles on the front chassis as these need to be moved further forward.

The main body fitted together okay but I did have to use filler where the rear body joined the sides, plus there are moulding pin marks visible on the inside so these need to be filled as well as the holes on the rear where the sand channel and part L19 (whatever that is) go as these are not present on the actual vehicle.

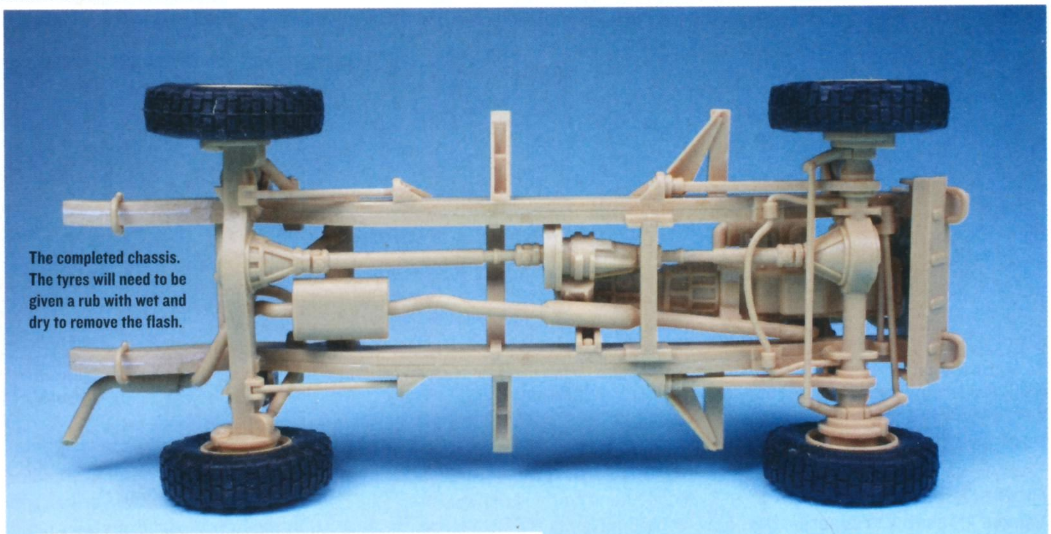
There should be mounting racks for three jerry cans either side of the rear body and I made these from brass sheet. Two 40mm x 5mm wide strips of brass were bent into 'U' shape channels and then trimmed to fit, not forgetting to cut an opening for the fuel filler cap on the right hand side. The jerry cans in the kit are British items so US ones were sourced from an Academy accessory set. The jerry can holders were made from styrene sheet and masking tape used for the tie down straps.

The roof with the MG mounting ring is based on the demo vehicle and needs to be trimmed down for the RSOV. I drew a line between the locating pins and made repeated cuts with a scalpel to remove the excess plastic around the MG ring. I also cut away the ledges at the front and back. The MG ring itself needs to be replaced too so using one from a Tamiya M1025 Humvee as reference I made an outer ring from styrene sheet using a compass cutter, the inner disc was cut from a thinner gauge. The access hole for the crew was cut out and a thin strip of styrene glued around the inner edge, the inner and outer rings were then glued together. The pintle mount was made from scraps of plastic strip and tube and the base was again from the ▶

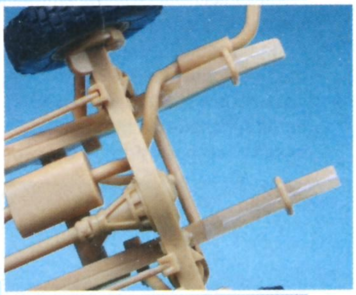
Before and after; The front wings showing the aerial antenna mounts that need to be removed.



The amount of filler required wasn't that much, I've had worse.

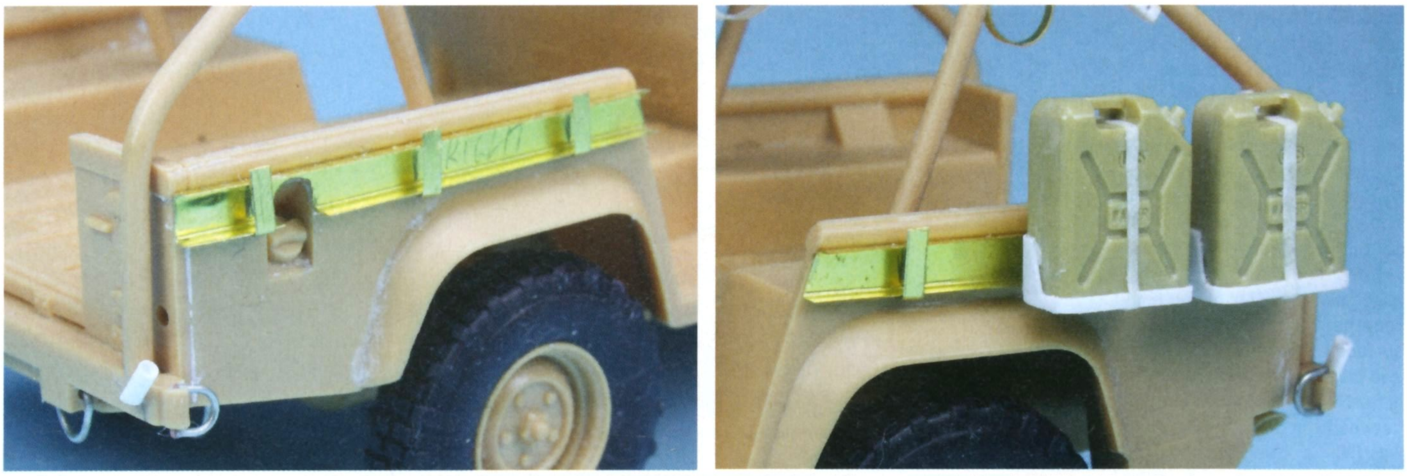


The completed chassis. The tyres will need to be given a rub with wet and dry to remove the flash.

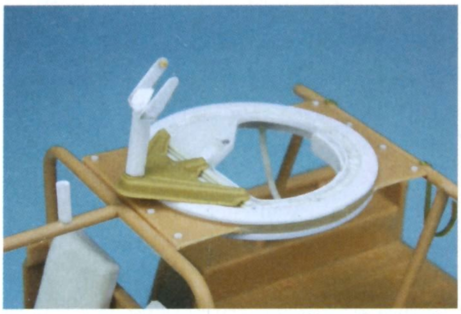


The rear chassis showing where you need to apply filler as this is visible on the finished model.

The engine is a good enough representation of the 300TDi. It is just missing the alternator, belts and some cabling.

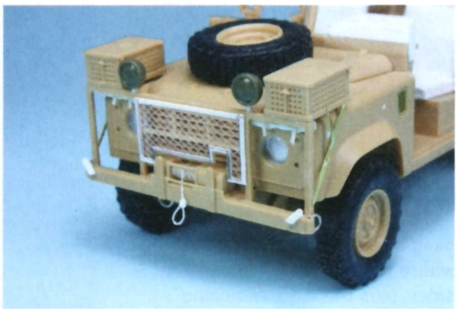


The jerry cans and racks are one of the things missing from the kit. I made these from sheet brass. Making a cut out for the fuel filler cap was tricky. Note the addition of the tie-down lug on the vehicle sides.



The biggest feature that needs attention, the MG ring. The triangular base is from a Tamiya Hummvee, the rest from styrene sheet as described in the text.

This shows the new seats and instrument panel cover made from Milliput.

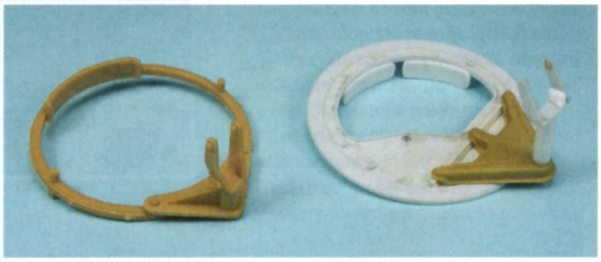


The mesh screen, rolled covers for the head lights, infra red lights and cable for the winch were added.

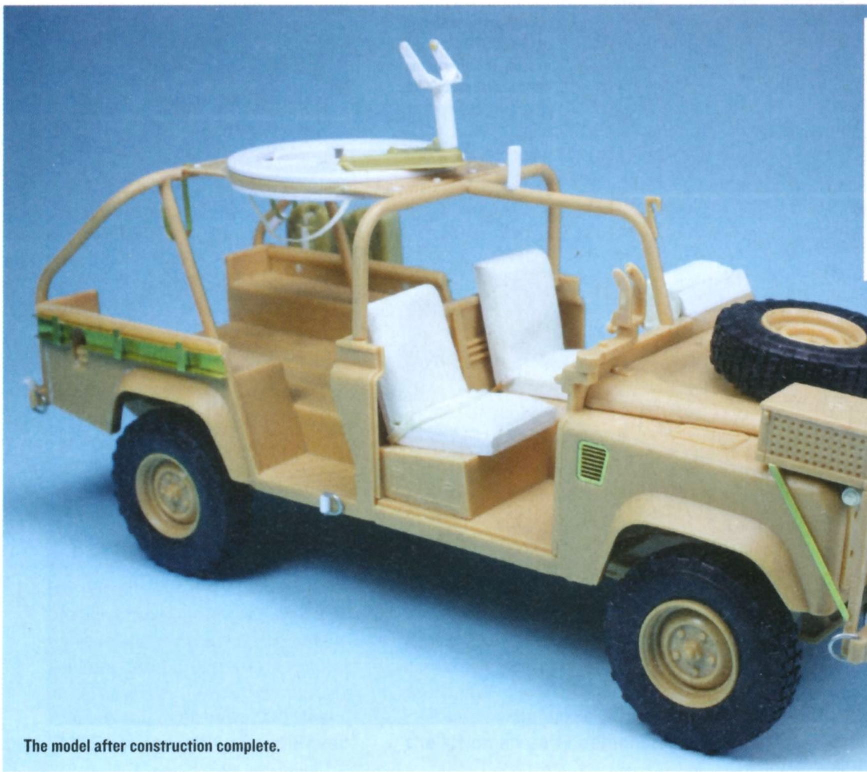
◀ Tamiya Humvee. I also stole the Mk.19 Grenade Launcher from the Tamiya kit as it was superior to the HobbyBoss item plus the ammo box has the mounting frame moulded on the box sides, something else missing from the kit.

The front wings have raised detail for the radio antenna moulded on both sides, a throwback to the British Army version and these need to be removed for the RSOV. Also there are two lights missing from the top of the rectangular frame fitted to the front of the vehicle and a mesh grill too. The lights were sourced from the spares box (possibly from a T-55) and the frame for the grill was cut from styrene sheet and backed with mesh from the wedding accessory aisle in a local craft shop (Don't laugh). Another detail to add is the fabric covers that are rolled up above the headlights and this I did from Milliput. Some fine picture hanging thread was rolled around the cable winch and two small angled tubes added to the front and rear bumpers. Tie down rings were also added to the lower rear body either side.

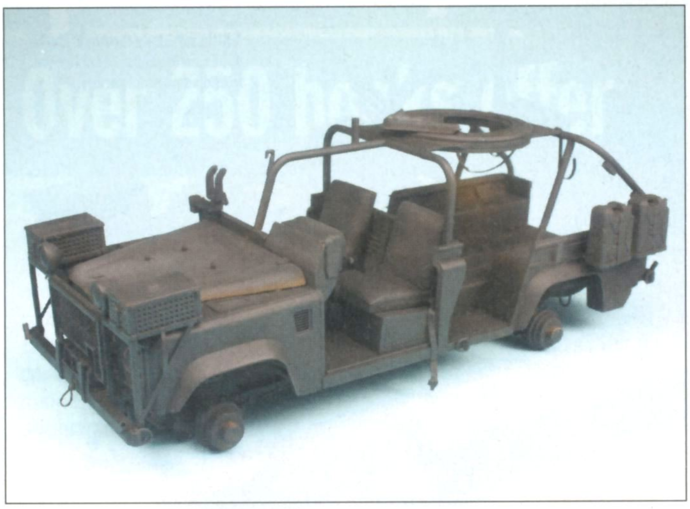
The driver and passenger seats were made from plastic sheet and Milliput as the type supplied in the kit are wrong for the RSOV, I also added seat belts using masking tape. The driver's instrument panel had a blackout cover made from Milliput.



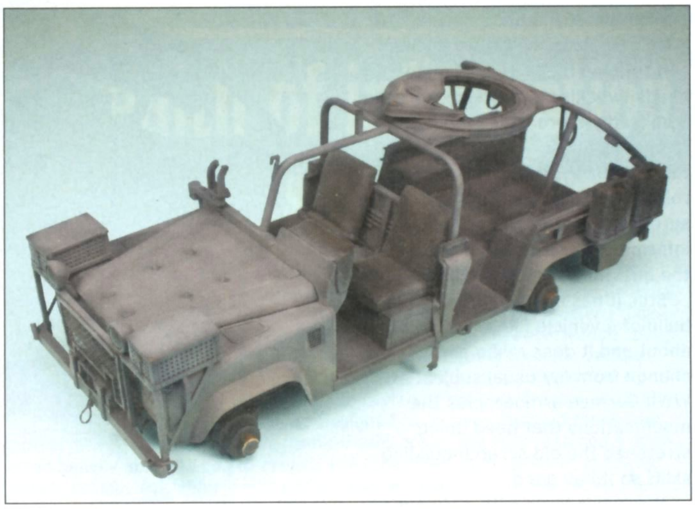
The MG ring as supplied in the kit on the left compared to my scratch made item on the right.



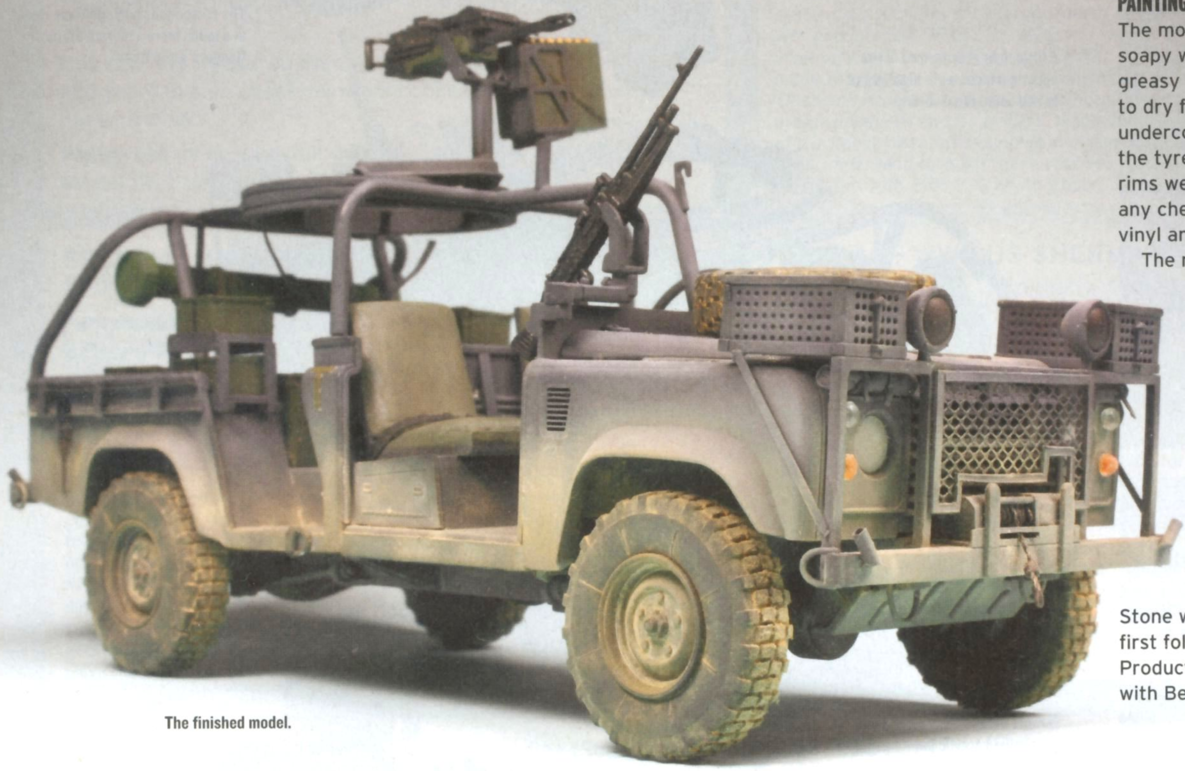
The model after construction complete.



The base coat of Tamiya XF-1 Black followed by....



....a coat of XF-63 German Grey, lightened with XF-19 Sky Grey to add the highlights.



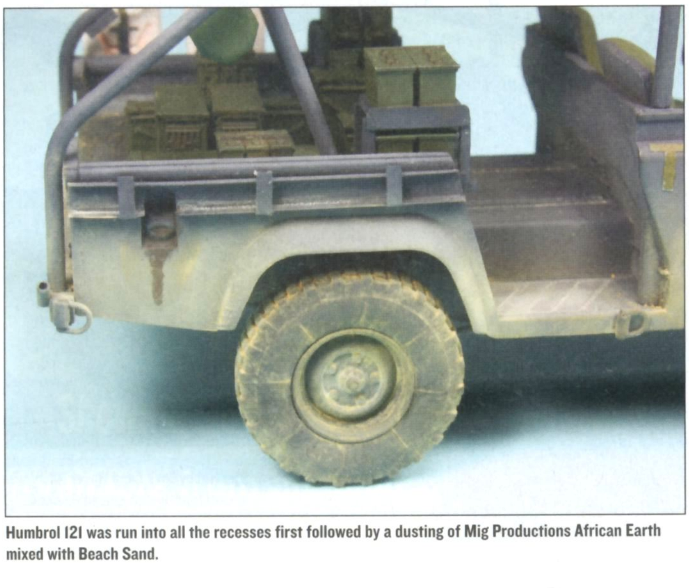
The finished model.

PAINTING

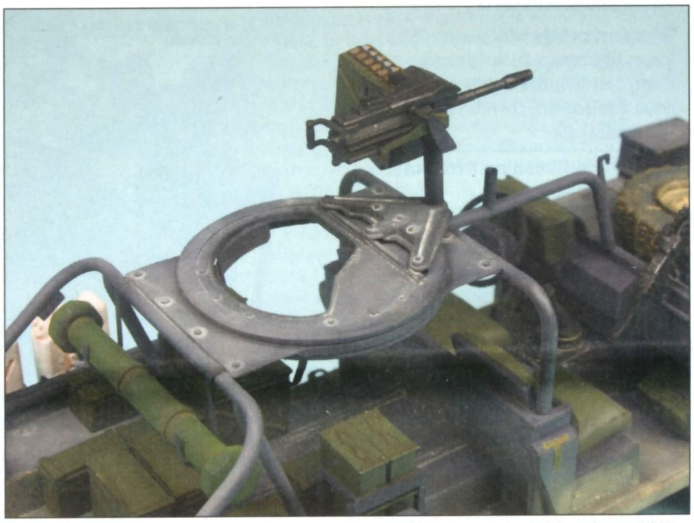
The model was washed in warm soapy water to get rid of my greasy paw prints and dust, left to dry for a couple of days then undercoated in black. Before fitting the tyres I made sure the wheel rims were coated in paint to avoid any chemical reaction between vinyl and bare plastic.

The model was sprayed overall in Tamiya XF-63 German Grey then with a little light grey thrown in the upper surfaces were highlighted to add some tonal variety to a pretty drab scheme. Various details were picked out with Vallejo paint and that was pretty much it.

Weathering was kept on the light side so a highly thinned wash of Humbrol enamel 121 Matt Pale Stone was run into all the recesses first followed by a dusting of Mig Productions African Earth mixed with Beach Sand. ▶



Humbrol 121 was run into all the recesses first followed by a dusting of Mig Productions African Earth mixed with Beach Sand.



The roof with the MG mounting ring is based on the demo vehicle so it was trimmed down for the RSOV.

◄ CONCLUSION

Well, this was supposed to be a quick out-the-box build but as usual I just couldn't help myself from adding and refining bits. I suppose every kit needs tweaking to some extent and admittedly there isn't a whole lot of photographic reference available for the RSOV, which considering its role with US Special Forces is hardly surprising. However if I can find information and pictures then it begs the question why HobbyBoss didn't.

Still, it has been an interesting build of a vehicle I knew nothing about and it does make a change from my usual subject of WWII German armour, plus the modifications that need doing stretched the old scratch building skills so its all good.

Now what to do with a Humvee with some bits missing? ■

References

- Military Machines International. March 2003 issue.
- http://articles.janes.com/articles/Janes-Military-Vehicles-and-Logistics/Land-Rover-Defender-Special-Operations-Vehicle-SOV-United-Kingdom.html
- http://www3.ausa.org/webint/DeptArmyMagazine.nsf/byid/CCRN-6CCRY7
- http://www.warwheels.net/LandyDefenderRSOVIndex.html
- Rangers; US Army's 75th Regiment by Joel B Paskauskas II. Concord 3005. ISBN 962-361-717-8

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Brett Green for supplying the kit and a big thank you to Ian Young, editor of another MMI (Military Machines International) for his help in my request for information.

Modelspec

HobbyBoss 1/35 Land Rover RSOV. Kit No. 82449

Tools and Accessories Used:

Various parts from Tamiya's M1025 Humvee. (35263) Academy AFV Accessories Set No. 2 (for modern US Jerry Cans) (1383), Lights from the spares box, Milliput White Epoxy Putty, Fine Picture Wire, Plastic Sheet, Compass Cutter

Paints and Finishing Products:

Tamiya Acrylics - XF-63 German Grey
Vallejo Acrylics - various
Humbrol Enamels - 121 Matt Pale Stone
MIG Productions Pigments - African Earth; Beach Sand

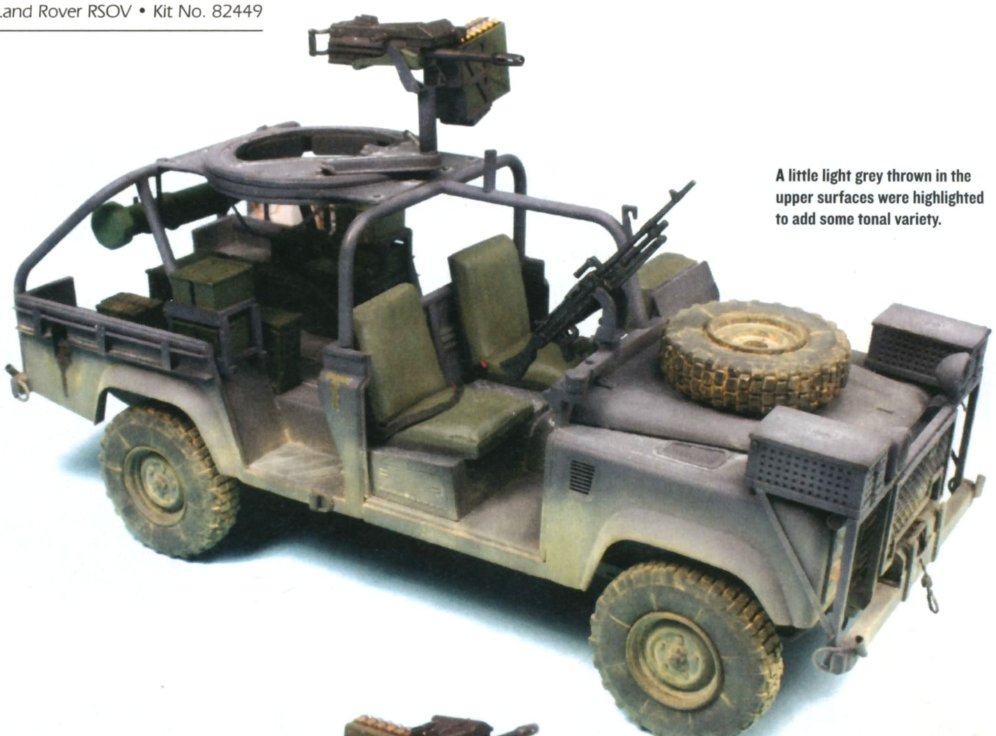
✓ High level of detail; generally good fit; interesting subject.

✗ Some inaccuracies and omissions for the RSOV version.

Available from

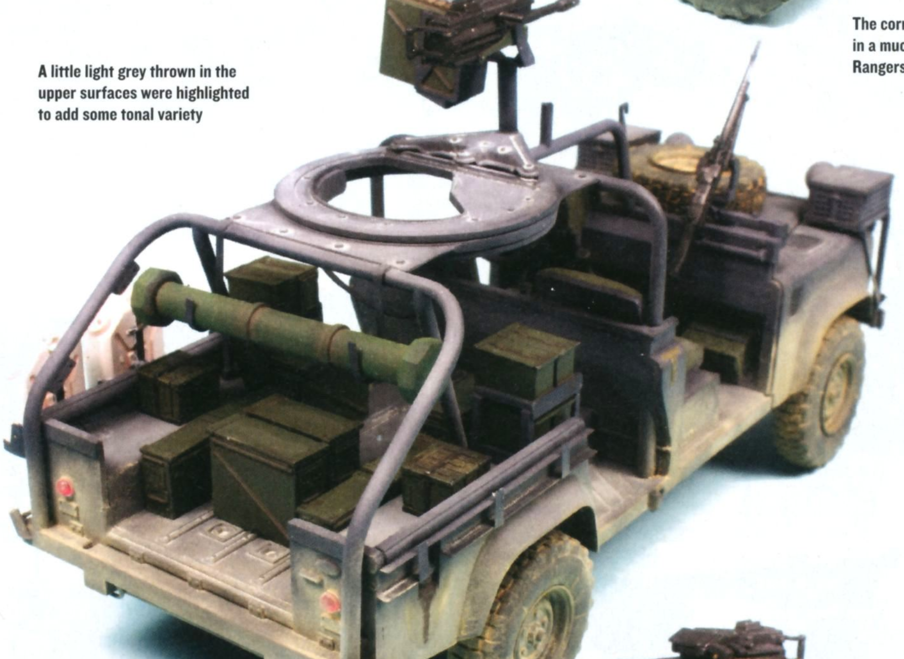
HobbyBoss kits are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●◐○○



A little light grey thrown in the upper surfaces were highlighted to add some tonal variety.

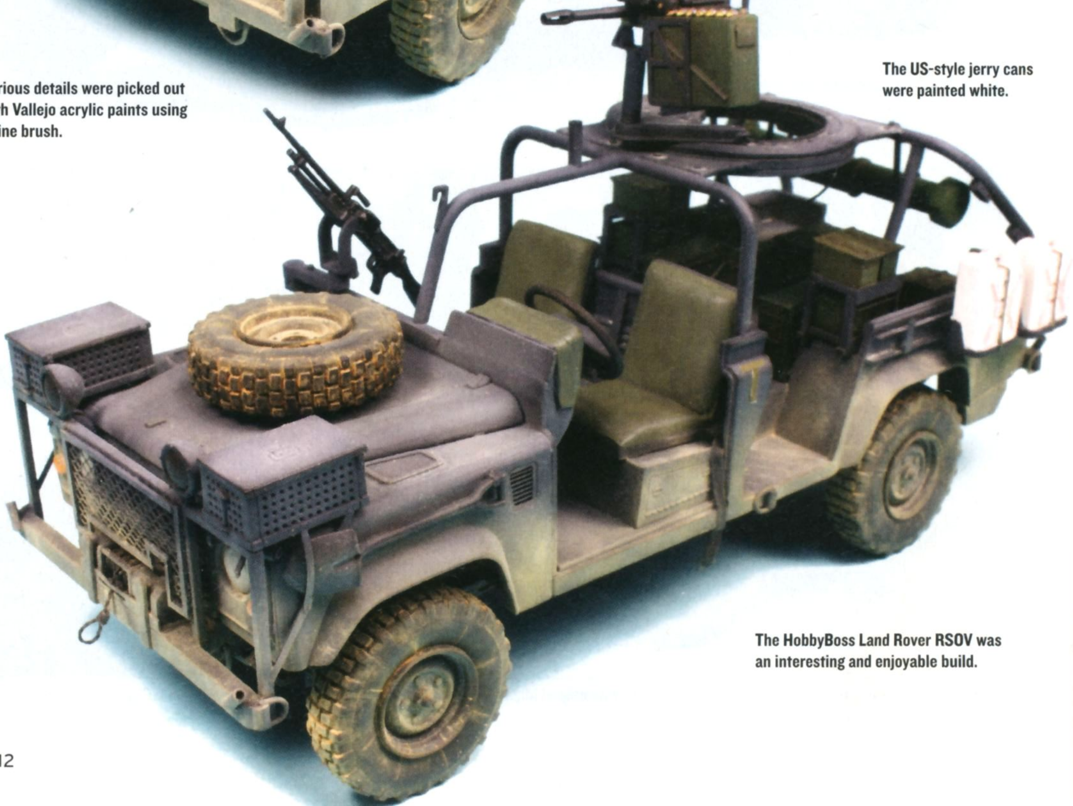
The corrections and additions result in a much more accurate kit for the Rangers' Land Rover.



A little light grey thrown in the upper surfaces were highlighted to add some tonal variety

Various details were picked out with Vallejo acrylic paints using a fine brush.

The US-style jerry cans were painted white.



The HobbyBoss Land Rover RSOV was an interesting and enjoyable build.

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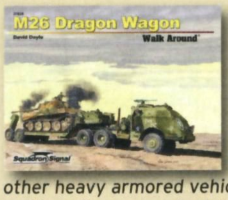
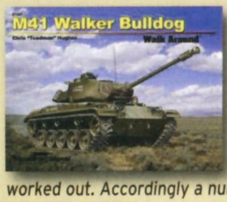
SS27025 - M26 Dragon Wagon Walk Around (Soft Cover)
SS67025 - M26 Dragon Wagon Walk Around (Hard Cover)



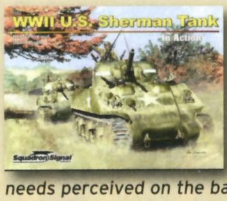
Designed by the Knuckey Truck Company with series production by the Pacific Car and Foundry Company, the "40-ton Tank Transporter Truck Trailer M25" - dubbed the "Dragon Wagon" by enthusiasts - was the largest wheeled vehicle fielded by the U.S. Army during World War II. The M25 consisted of the M26 tractor and M15 trailer. Designed to recover disabled tanks and other heavy armored vehicles from forward areas, the M26 featured a large and heavily armored cab to protect the crew. Field use, however, indicated that typically this vehicle was not used in recovery operations during the heat of battle, so the later-production M26A1 eschewed the armored cab in favor of reduced weight and increased reliability. As U.S. tanks evolved and became larger and heavier, an upgraded version of the trailer, the M15A1, was introduced to accommodate them. During the 1950s the M15A1 was further modified to the M15A2 standard, which featured a 24-volt lighting system. As such, these veteran trailers saw service thorough the Vietnam War and into the 1970s. The M26 and M26A1 remained in the U.S. Army inventory well beyond the end of WWII - even being employed by NASA to move the Saturn V rockets that launched man to the moon in the 1960s. This Walk Around examines the armored and soft-skin versions of this massive vehicle, and its trailers, through hundreds of color photos and some of the finest restored examples in existence. The reader is visually taken over, under, and through these vehicles from front bumper to loading ramp. Illustrated with over 230 photographs. 80 pages.

SS27024 - M41 Walker Bulldog Walk Around (Soft Cover)
SS67024 - M41 Walker Bulldog Walk Around (Hard Cover)



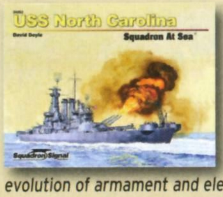
The standard U.S. light tank during the early years of the Cold War, the M41 Bulldog was developed as a more powerful successor to the M24 Chaffee. Named for General Walton Walker who died in a Jeep accident in Korea, the Walker Bulldog was maneuverable and well armed. It was, however, rushed to the battlefield to counter North Korea's Soviet built T-34s before all its own kinks had been worked out. Accordingly a number of Bulldog variants were developed over the years in an effort to overcome initial deficiencies. The U.S. Army began phasing out the Bulldog at the end of the 1960s, but the rugged vehicle has served more than 20 other countries and continues to operate in several armies around the world to this day. The detailed photographs that pack this volume offer readers a detailed look at all the facets of the M41, inside and out. In addition to comprehensive images of the outside of the Bulldog, five pages cover the engine compartment alone, while images of the interior of vehicle and turret fill 25 pages. Illustrated with 250 photographs plus color profiles and numerous detailed line drawings; 80 pages.

SS2048 - WWII US SHERMAN IN ACTION



The iconic American tank of World War II, the M4 Sherman was known for its simple, reliable, and flexible design. Ten different companies contributed to the total output of 50,000 units produced in a myriad of variations. Even after it went into serial production in 1942 the Sherman was subject to almost constant change and modification, based on lessons learned and needs perceived on the battlefield. The full story of the Sherman's exploits would fill several volumes, so this book focuses on the variants and sub-variants of the Shermans used by U.S. forces during WWII. The Shermans that rolled off the assembly lines in 1945 bore little resemblance to the M4s produced in 1942, and this volume chronicles each major model of the Sherman everywhere the American soldier fought. Augmenting the nearly 200 period photos, many of them in rare original color, are a host of exquisitely rendered line drawings illustrating the subtle variations in hull, turret, and weapons used on these famed armored fighting vehicles. Includes color profiles; 80 pages.

SS34002 - USS North Carolina Squadron at Sea (Soft Cover)
SS74002 - USS North Carolina Squadron at Sea (Hard Cover)



Laid down in 1937 and launched on 9 April 1941, the USS North Carolina was the first new construction battleship to enter service during World War II and took part in every major naval offensive in the Pacific Theater, becoming the most decorated U.S. battleship of WWII. This second volume in the Squadron at Sea series traces the history of the North Carolina from her keel-laying to her preservation, photographically documenting the evolution of armament and electronics that resulted from her pre-Pearl Harbor design to its peak - bristling with guns to counter the threat of kamikaze attack as she operated against the Japanese home islands. In addition to the ship's evolution, this volume documents the North Carolina's wartime operations that earned her 12 battle-stars. More than 330 photographs, many of them colour, illustrate the ship, her crew, and their work and recreation. Her years in the reserve fleet and ultimate restoration are also covered in the book's 136 pages. Detailed line drawings illustrate North Carolina's changing configurations, and 11 colour profiles show the various camouflage schemes worn by both the ship and her scouting aircraft through the years.

SS27023 - Ft-17 / M1917 WWI Tanks Walk Around (Soft Cover)
SS67023 - Ft-17 / M1917 WWI Tanks Walk Around (Hard Cover)

FT-17 / M1917 WWI Tanks
David Doyle
Walk Around
Squadron/Signal

Introduced in 1917, the Renault FT-17 and its American-built copy, the M1917, revolutionized tank design. The vehicle's rotating turret, rear-engine, driver-forward design are characteristics of the most advanced tanks even today. This volume presents a careful study of the details and variations of this innovative vehicle, inside and out. Two-hundred thirty-seven photographs reveal the intimacies of no fewer than 14 of the finest surviving examples of these machines, preserved on three different continents. Examples feature a variety of paint schemes and camouflage patterns, the rounded and flat-plate castings for the rear of the vehicle and the tail skid and turret variations between the Renault FT-17 and U.S.-made M1917. The driver's compartment in the interior of the tank is revealed, and close ups record the configuration of the engine. Nine detailed line drawings supplement the photos and comprehensive captions. 80 pages.

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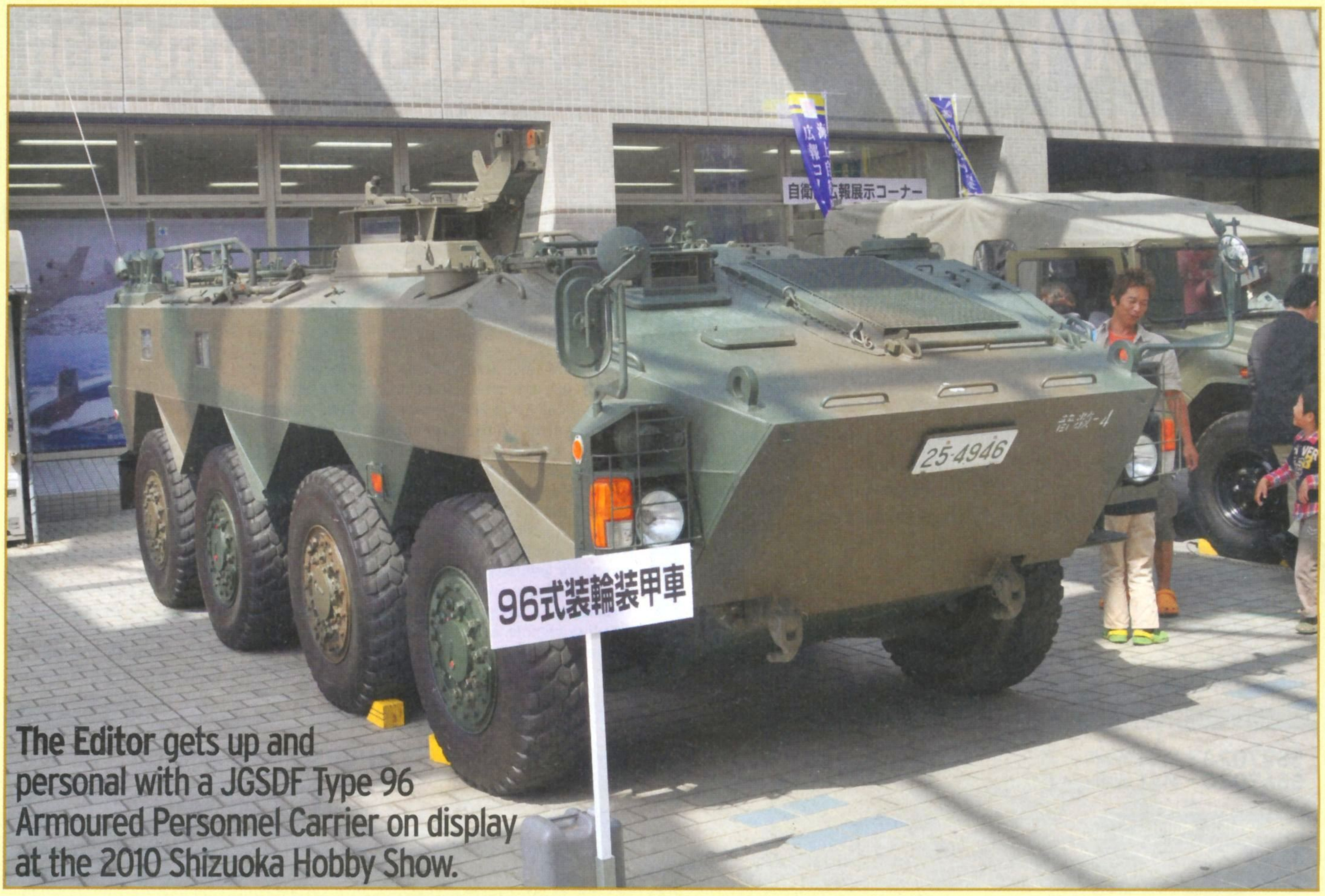


The Editor gets up and personal with a JGSDF Type 96 Armoured Personnel Carrier on display at the 2010 Shizuoka Hobby Show.

JAPANESE TYPE 96 ARMOURED PERSONNEL CARRIER

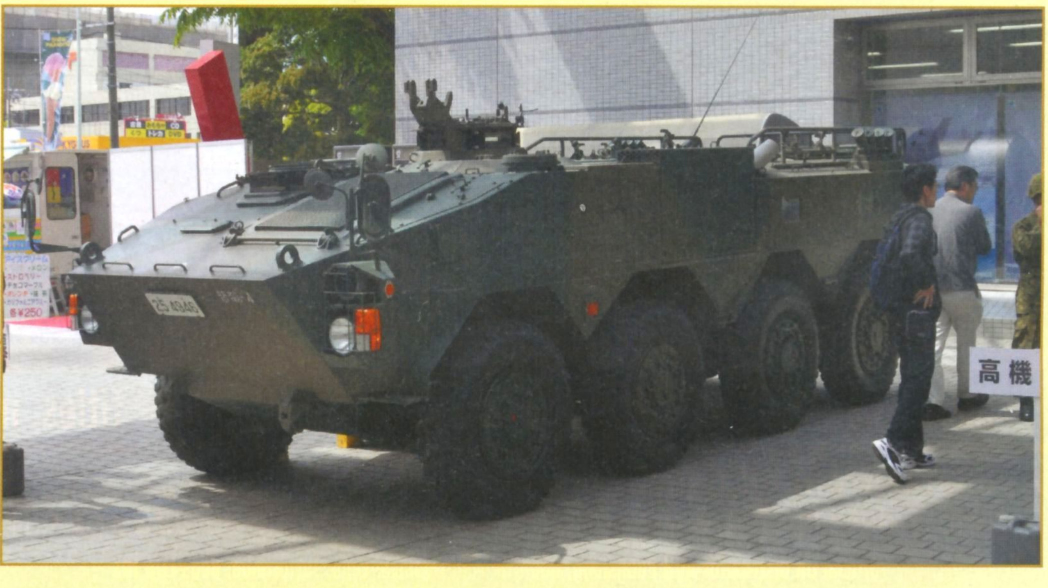
The Type 96 Armoured Personnel Carrier is a Japanese designed 8x8 military vehicle manufactured by the Defence Systems Division of Komatsu.

The Type 96 APC entered service with the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force in 1995. It features excellent cross-country capability, and a maximum road speed of 100 km/h.

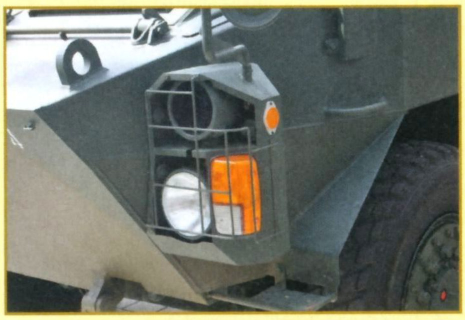
The Type 96 APC may be fitted with either a .50 calibre machine gun or a 40mm automatic grenade launcher on the Commander's cupola. Being a Japanese vehicle, the driver sits on the right hand side, with the engine installed on the left.

A number of Type 96 APCs accompanied the mainly humanitarian contingent of the Japan Self Defense Forces to Samawah, Southern Iraq in early January 2004. The last JGSDF units were withdrawn from Iraq by late July 2006.

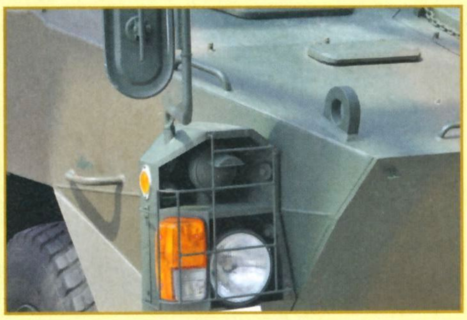
During the 2010 Shizuoka Hobby Show, a number of JGSDF vehicles were on display at the front of the Exhibition Centre including this Type 96 APC. ■



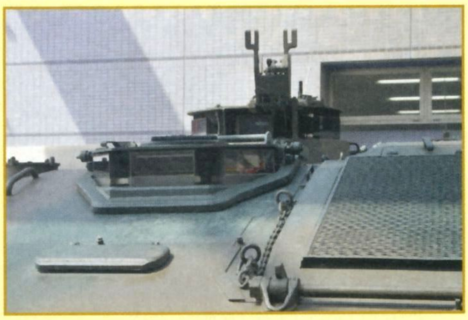
A left side view of the Type 96 ▶ APC. The vehicle is finished in a low contrast camouflage of dark green and dark brown.



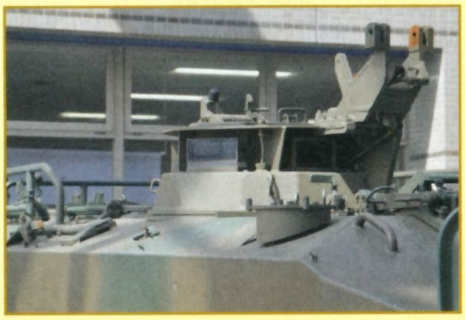
▲ A close up view of the left front headlight and indicator cluster.



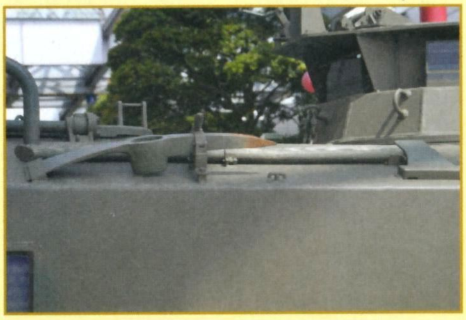
▲ The right side headlight cluster. Note the "Notek" style shielded light above the main headlight.



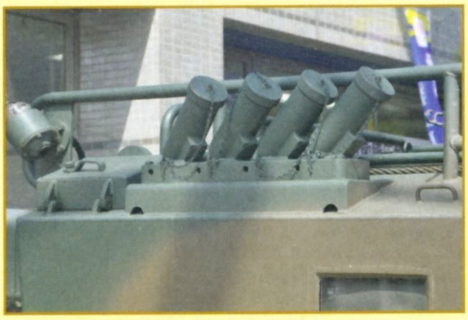
▲ A forward view of the driver's vision blocks. Being a Japanese vehicle, the driver is seated on the right side.



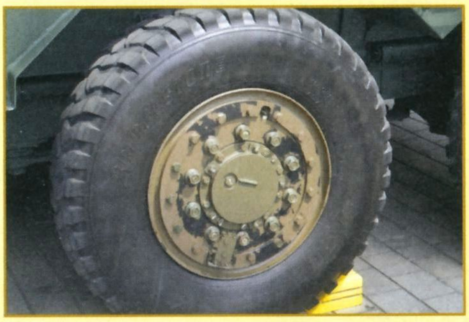
▲ A side view of the Commander's cupola and vision blocks.



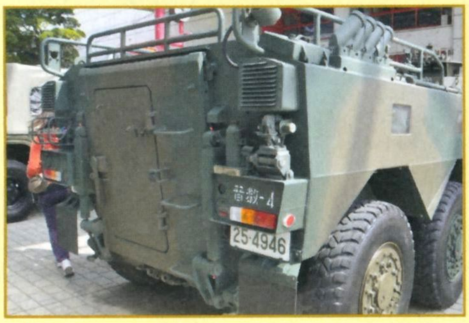
▲ Tools are painted in the vehicle's camouflage colours, but some wear and tear may be observed on both the pick head and the axe handle. Interesting weathering possibilities here!



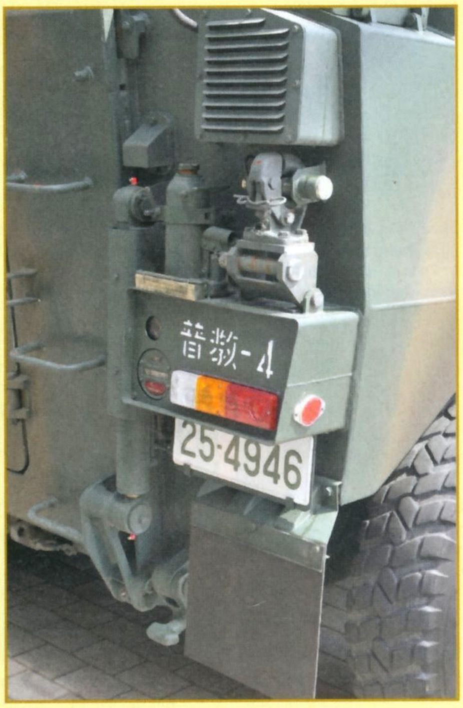
▲ Smoke dischargers on the top of the vehicle.



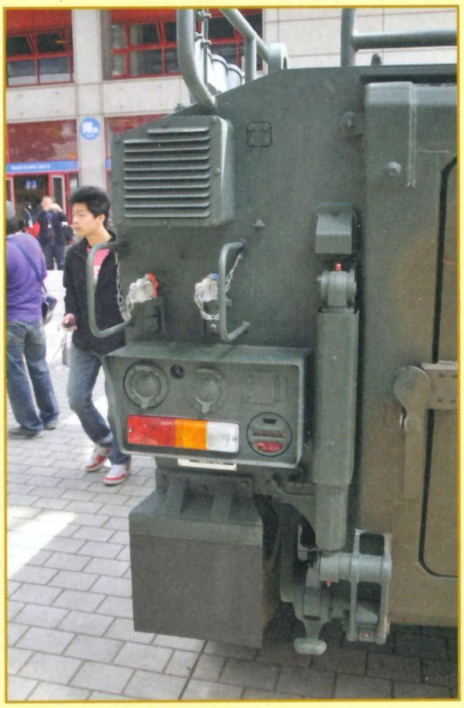
▲ The rear right wheel is brown, with an olive coloured hub and nuts, and flaking paint revealing black underneath.



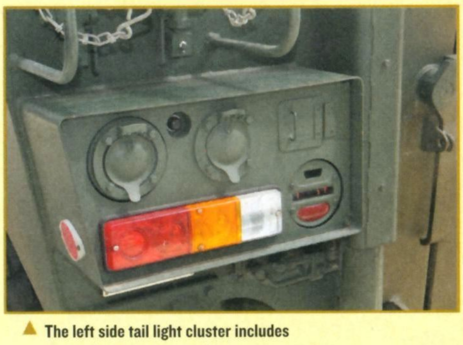
▲ Rear three-quarter view showing stencilled Japanese markings.



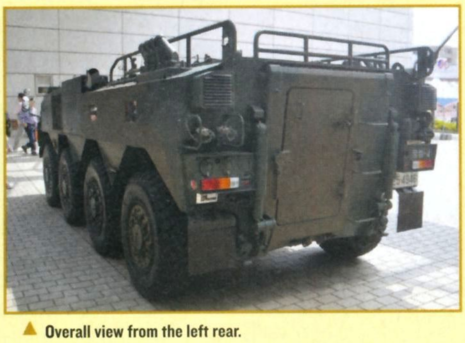
▲ A closer view of the right tail light and mud flap.



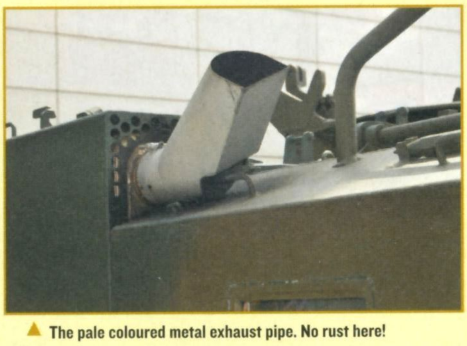
▲ The left side of the rear of the vehicle, including one of the hydraulic arms that operate the back ramp.



▲ The left side tail light cluster includes covered power access points.

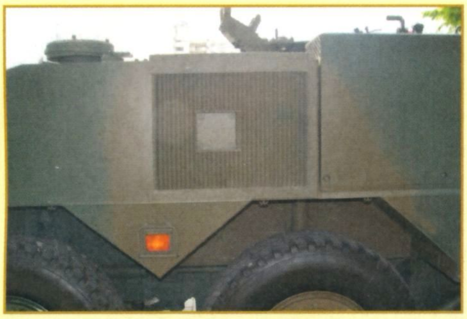


▲ Overall view from the left rear.

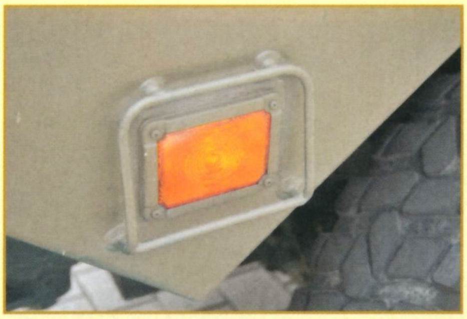


▲ The pale coloured metal exhaust pipe. No rust here!

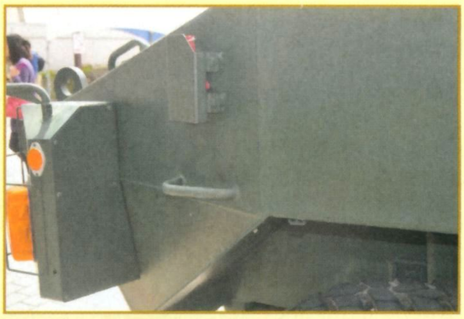
References - Japanese Type 96 Armoured Personnel Carrier



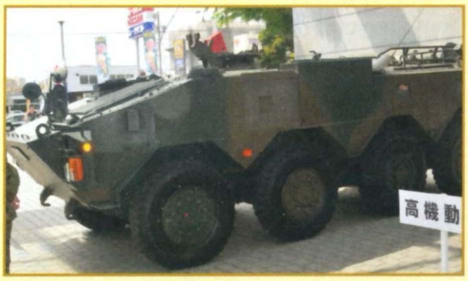
▲ The engine vent on the left side of the vehicle.



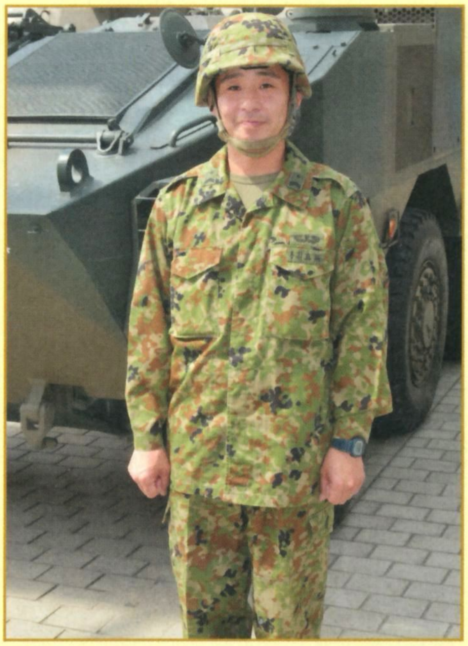
▲ The reflector on the side of the vehicle is protected by a small raised metal guardrail.



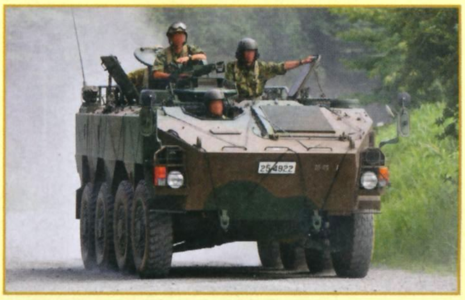
▲ Tie-down point at the front corner of the vehicle.



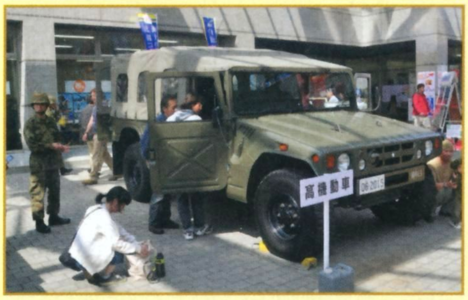
▲ Left side view of the Type 96.



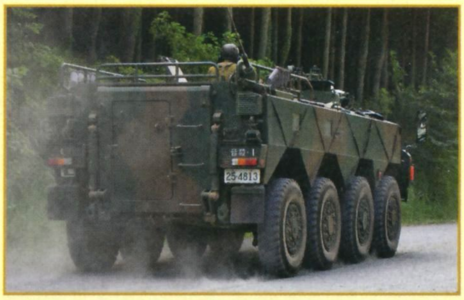
▲ One of the friendly JGSDF soldiers on hand at Shizuoka in camouflage uniform.



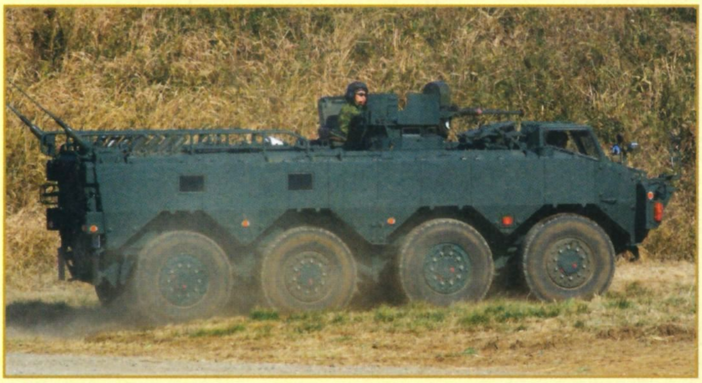
▲ A Type 96 on exercise.



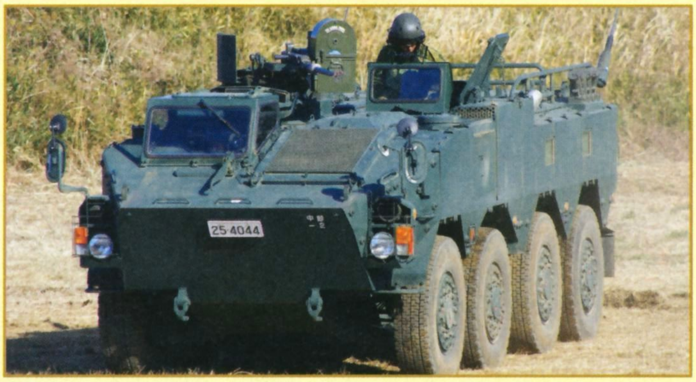
▲ Also on display at Shizuoka was the Humvee-lookalike Toyota High Mobility Vehicle, or HMV, based on its Mega Cruiser SUV design.



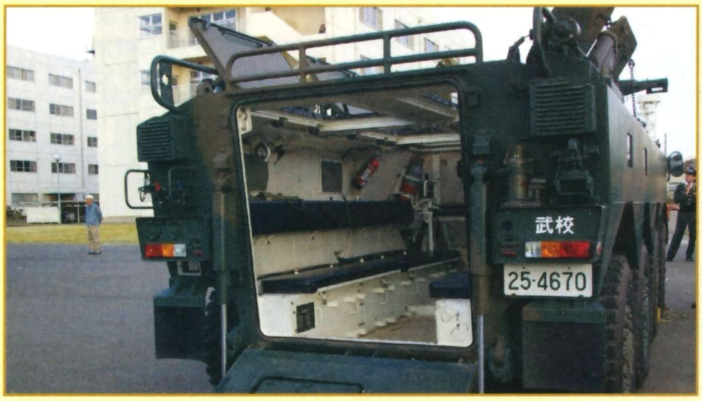
▲ Also on exercise. Note the foliage camouflage on the top of the vehicle.



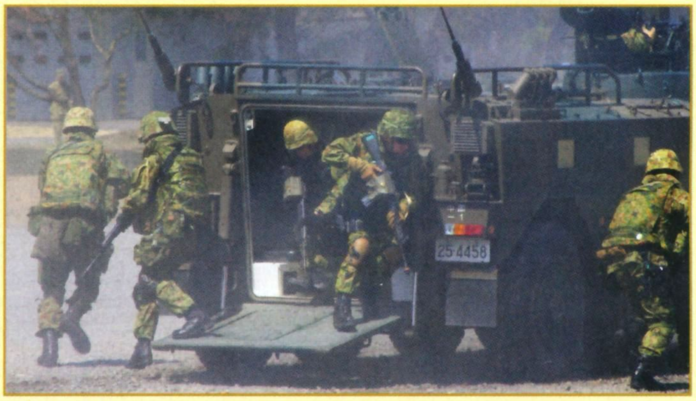
▲ A Type 96-II in Narashino, Japan on 8 January 2012. JGSDF 1st Airborne Brigade 2012 first drop manoeuvre. The Commander's cupola is fitted with an armoured .50 cal machine gun, allowing 360 degree traverse.



▲ Front quarter view of the Type 96-II. The clear armoured shield for the driver may be seen here. This was introduced during the Type 96's service in Iraq.



▲ Interior view of a JGSDF Type96 APC at Camp Matsudo, Japan, 2007.



▲ Type 96 Armored Personnel Carrier, Central Readiness Regiment, Camp Utsunomiya, Japan, on 8 April, 2012.

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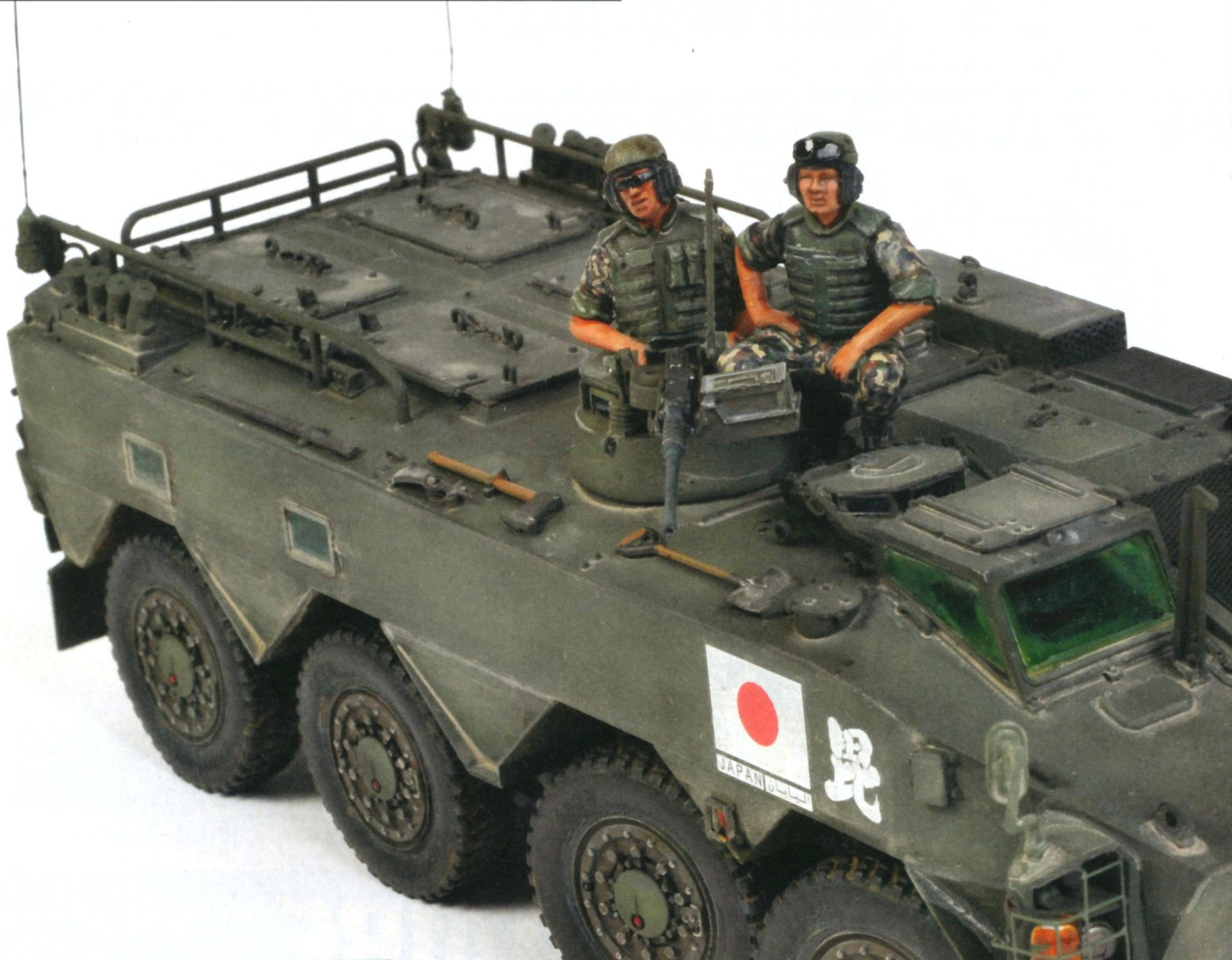


1/35 SCALE
35001 CONVERSION SET FOR TYPE 96
to Version B and suitable for OIF
PRODUCTION
Djiti's Production 2010

Djiti's 1:35 scale update was designed to convert Trumpeter's Type A vehicle to the Type B, as used in Iraq.

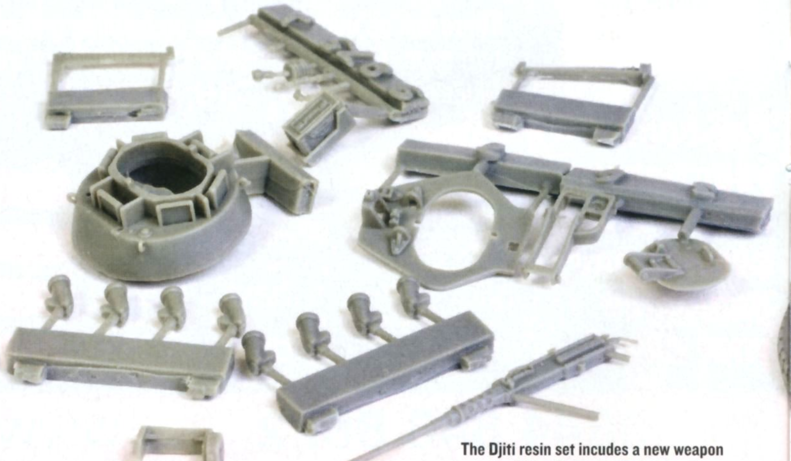
As a big fan of modern subjects, there are now so many great kits that have been released and even more to come, but when I was given the opportunity to build this great looking vehicle, I jumped at it.

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale JGSDF Type 96 WAPC Type A was released in 2011, and is a very nicely detailed kit out of the box. This is the version with the 40mm grenade launcher on the Commander's cupola, but the one I was really interested was the Type B, with the .50 calibre machine gun and the armoured glass driver's hood.

ENHANCING THE TYPE 96

I came across Djiti's Type 96 conversion sets and figures, and I just had to add these to the already great Trumpeter model, transforming it into the Type B variant that served in Iraq. The sets are supplied in resin and are quite simple to build. In addition to the .50 cal machine gun and a revised cupola, the Type B conversion also includes cable cutters and smoke dischargers.

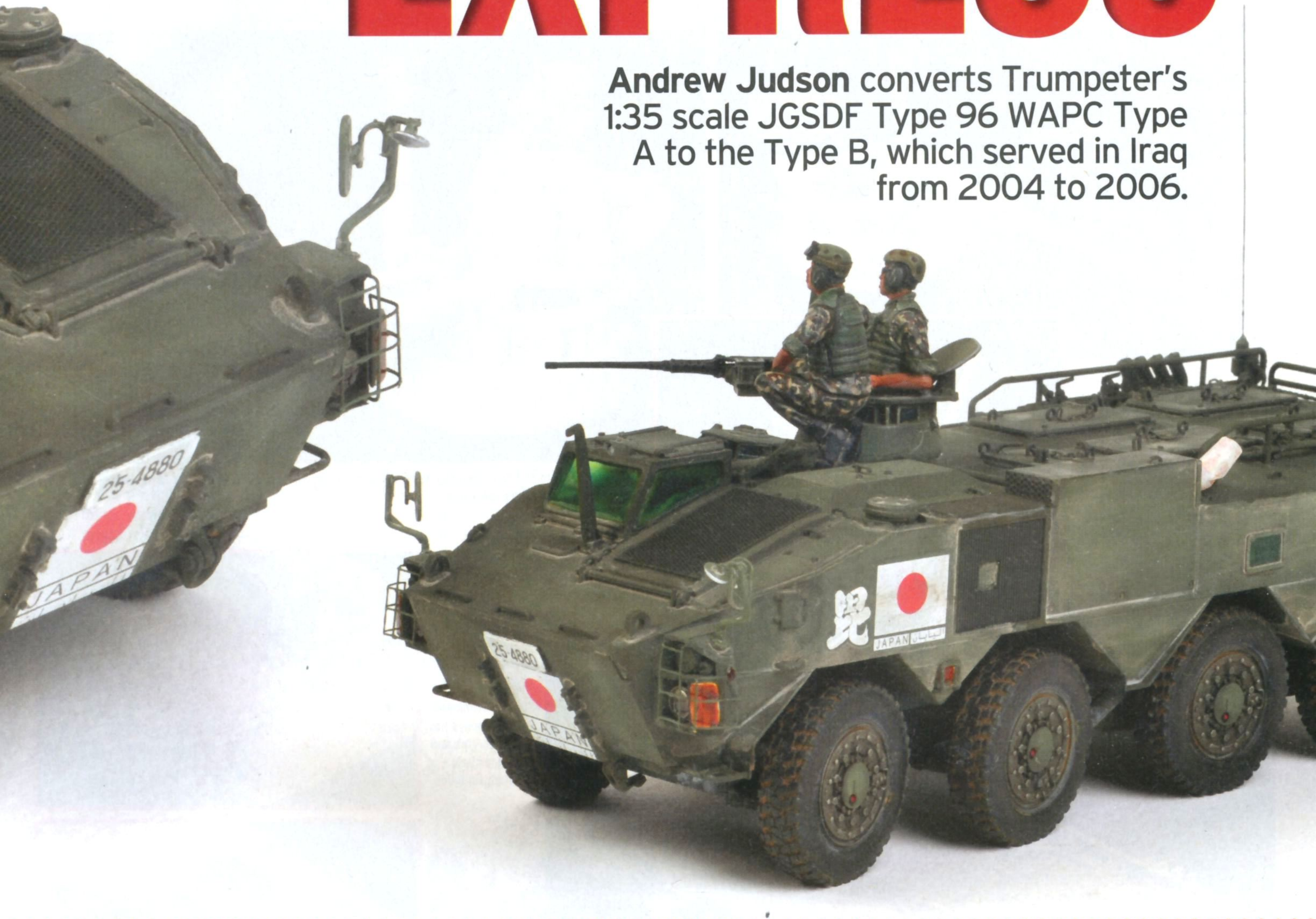
The actual building of the kit went very smoothly, including a slight modification so that the steering wheels were turned to one side to give the kit a bit more of ▶



The Djiti resin set incudes a new weapon cupola, .50 calibre machine gun and mount, smoke dischargers are more.

RED CIRCLE EXPRESS

Andrew Judson converts Trumpeter's 1:35 scale JGSDF Type 96 WAPC Type A to the Type B, which served in Iraq from 2004 to 2006.


25-4880
JAPAN
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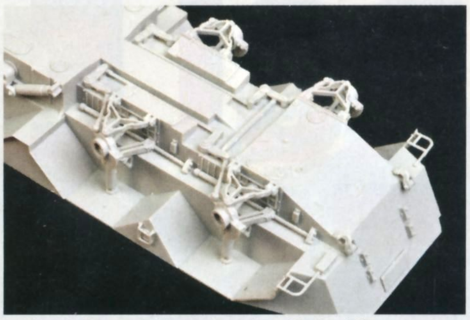
Djiti also offers a set of replacement resin wheels for the Trumpeter kit.

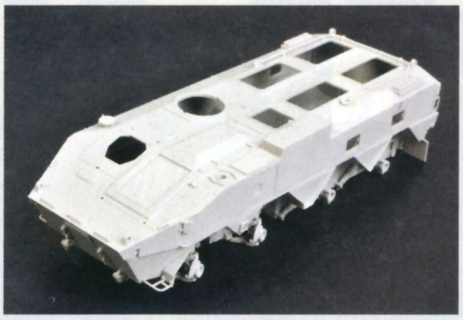
1/35 SCALE
PRODUCTION
35015 JGSDF AFV CREW

The last piece of icing for the cake was a set of resin figures.

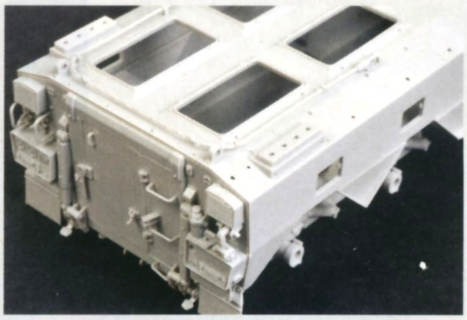
Casting and poses of both figures was excellent.



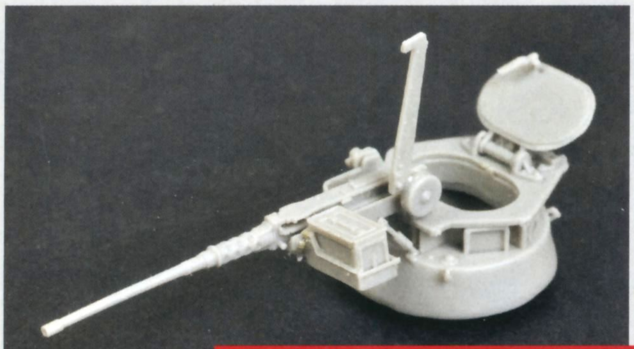
Building the Trumpeter kit was fast and trouble free. The suspension for the steering wheels was adjusted so that they would be off centre. This lends a more dynamic pose to the finished vehicle.



The basic hull and suspension are completed here.

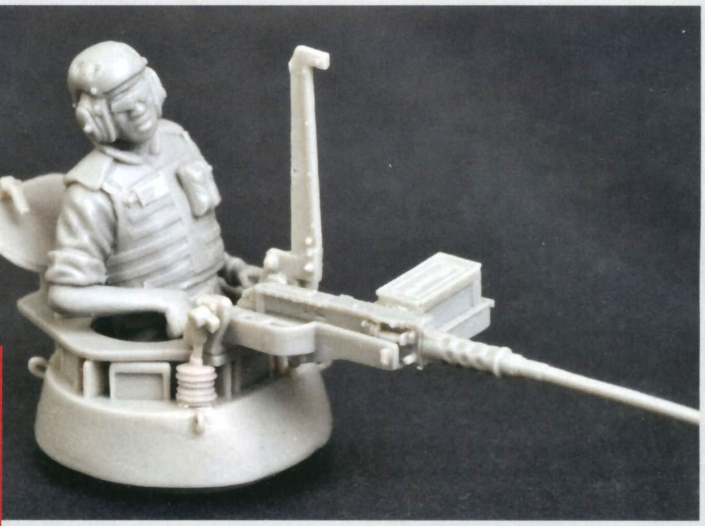


Trumpeter delivers a high level of detail on the rear hull plate.

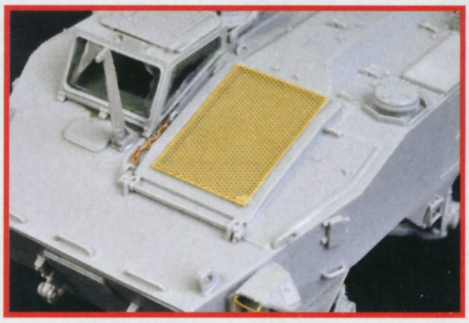


The Djiti resin cupola and machine gun look great when they are assembled.

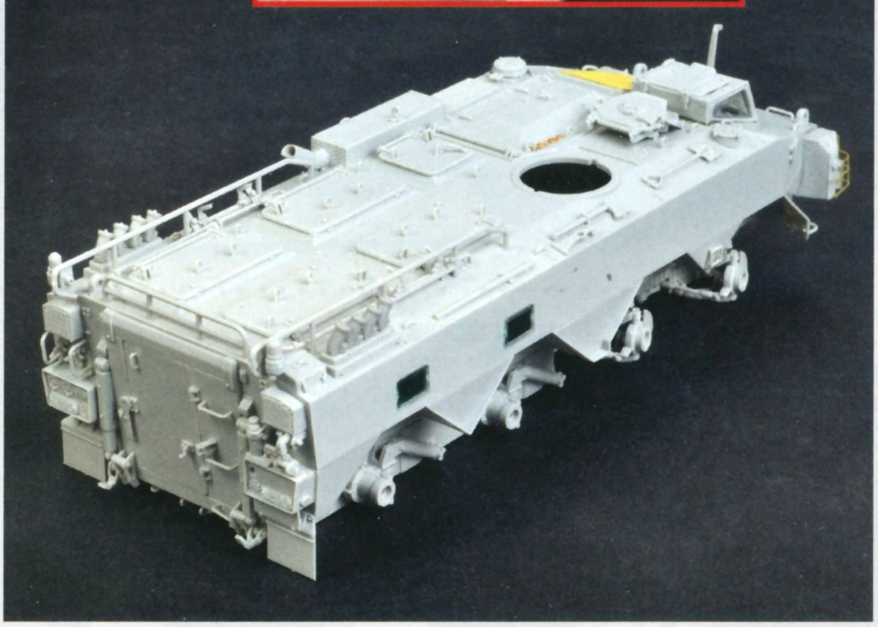
The detail cast to the top of the hatch is very nice too.



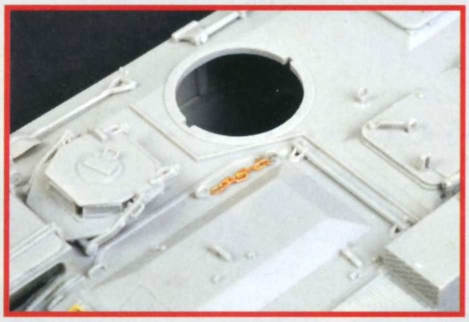
It is important to test fit continually. Here, the Commander figure is being test-fitted in the cupola before it is glued to the upper hull.



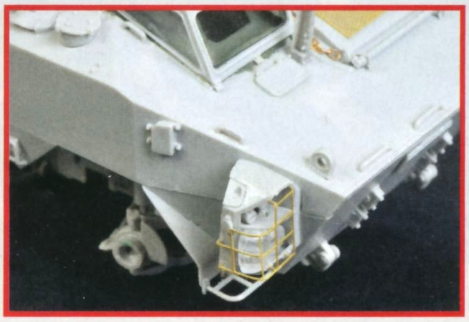
Trumpeter supplies the photo-etch and the fine chain – a thoughtful touch.



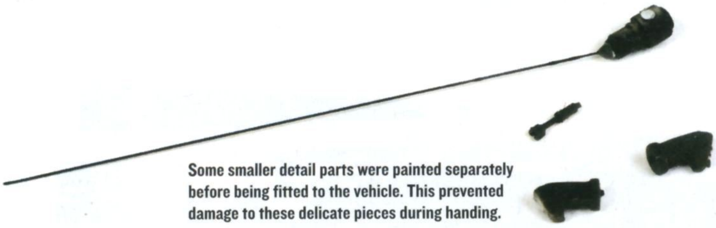
Almost ready for paint now!



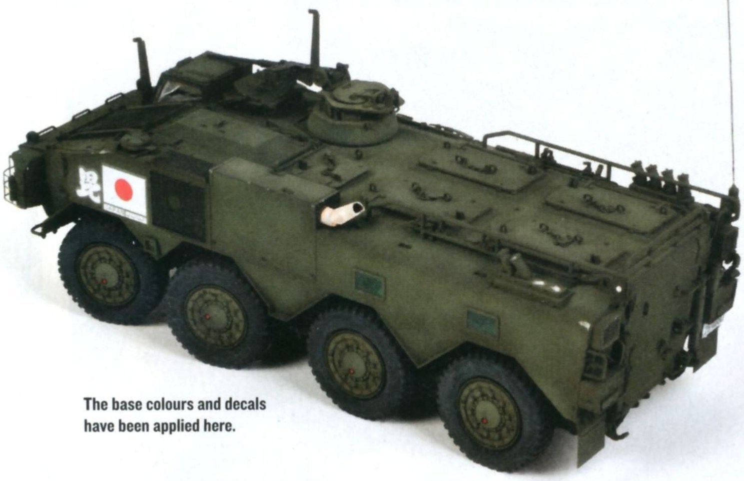
Smaller details such as the tools, handles, hinges and chains have been added to the upper hull now.



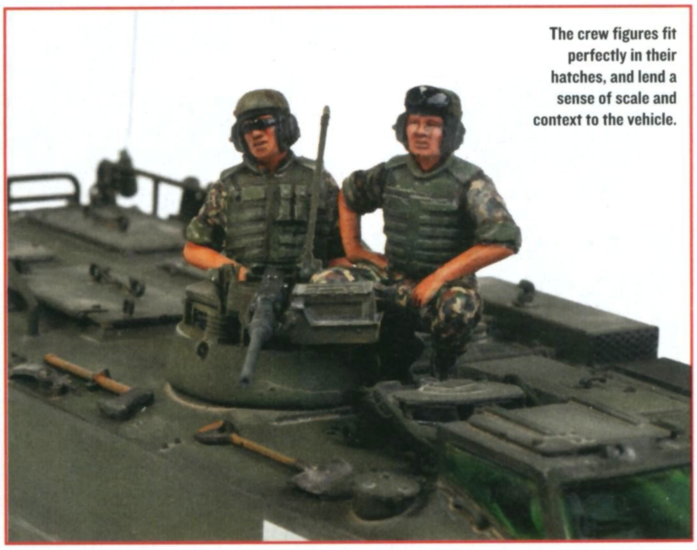
The headlight assembly is a combination of plastic, clear parts and photo-etch.



Some smaller detail parts were painted separately before being fitted to the vehicle. This prevented damage to these delicate pieces during handing.



The base colours and decals have been applied here.



The crew figures fit perfectly in their hatches, and lend a sense of scale and context to the vehicle.

a dynamic appearance. I was very impressed with the suspension and running gear. They just slotted together without any problems and all lined up perfectly, with all the wheels on the ground.

The upper deck was equally impressive, with plenty of detail and some nice photo-etched bits from the kit for the engine screens, plus some very fine chain on all the upper hatches - a nice touch.

Djiti also offers a set of eight resin wheels to replace the vinyl tyres on the kit. These are a big improvement in terms of detail and durability. The resin will take painting and weathering better than the vinyl tyres too.

Once all the kit parts assembled, I started to add the resin accessories. First, the wheels were glued in place, followed by the new weapons turret, which went together without any issues and fit in place perfectly; and lastly the new smoke dischargers that even had lugs to fit into the kit's locating holes.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

Now that everything was pretty well built, it was time to begin the painting.

I started with three light, even coats of Tamiya XF-73 Dark Green (JGSDF) and, once dried, a further coat of XF-73 mixed with XF-57 Buff and then lightly in a patchy finish to show fading of paint colour and wear and tear.

The wheels were painted in the same colours, while the tyres were finished in Tamiya acrylic XF-69 NATO Black, with a very light covering with XF-57 to give a dusty appearance, not going overboard. Decals were then put in place so as when it comes to weathering they dont look loke a last minute add on.

DISASTER INTERVAL

With the base colours on, it was time to take this kit for its photos at our trusty editor's place, but not without disaster. As I was taking the model out of my car, I accidentally dropped it. Bits went flying - ouch! Luckily I was able to find all the missing parts and repaired the model after the pictures were taken.

Now that the kit had been repaired (phew) I began the weathering stage, first employing a complete covering of MIG Productions' Filter P400, Grey for Dark Yellow, which gives a great toned down and weatherbeaten finish on most colours, I use a lot of this. Next I put a wash of Sand from Flory Models in the tread of the tyres and, once dry, a dry-brush of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black over the actual raised tread showing, representing the ground contact area. I used Mig Washes of Brown and Dark Wash for bringing out details in the wheels hub.

With everything else pretty much done, I then made a diluted mix of XF-57 Buff and sprayed this lightly over the wheels and slightly up the sides of the vehicle to give the model a more realistic finish. I was quite happy with the end result.

CREW FIGURES

Lastly were the figures I always like to add figures to any kit that I build, as they help give the model a sense of scale and context.

In this case, I used an excellent set from of two Japanese armoured crewman Djiti designed specifically for this kit, but which might be adapted easily for other vehicles as well. The casting and detail of the resin figures is excellent, with minimal cleanup required or gaps when put together. The figures were painted with Tamiya acrylics and Citadel washes to bring out details.

CONCLUSION

This was a really fun project to build, albeit with challenges along the way - whoops, I dropped it!

If you want to build an interesting vehicle, then give this one a go. It won't disappoint. ■

Modelspec

Trumpeter 1:35 JGSDF Type 96 WAPC Type A.
Kit No. 01557

Accessories Used:

Djiti Type 96 WAPC Type B Iraq conversion. (35007)
Djiti Type 96 WAPC Wheels. (35008)
Djiti Japanese Crew. (35015)

Paints and Finishing Products:

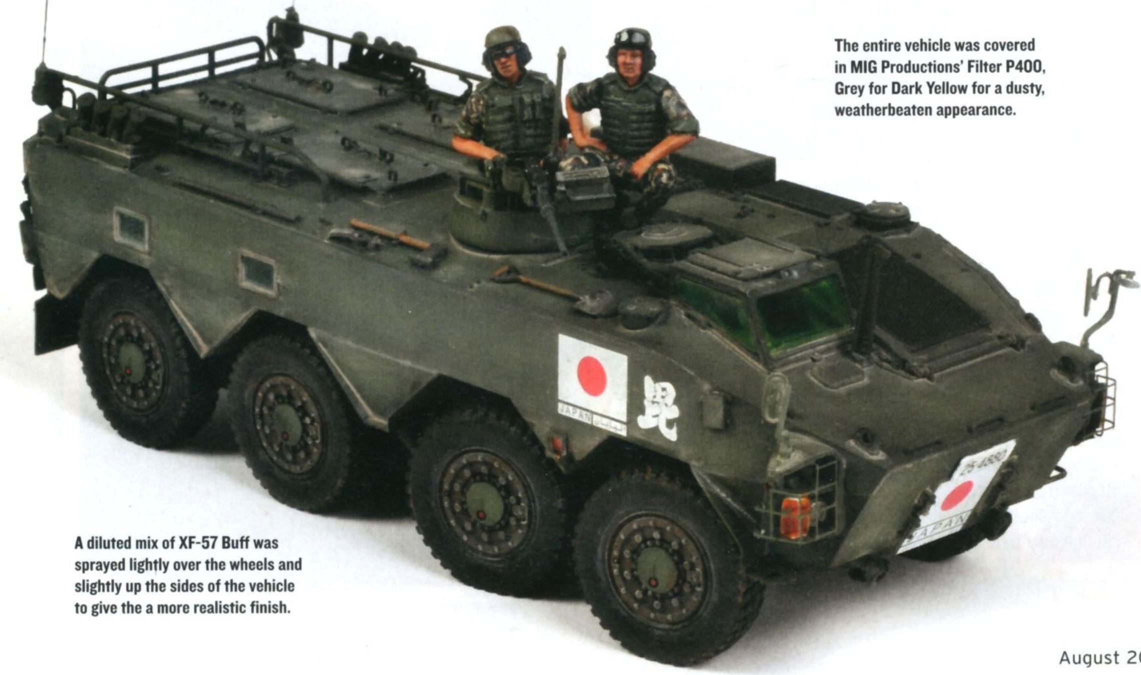
Tamiya Acrylics, sprayed through Badger Rage Airbrush - XF-73 Dark Green; XF-57 Buff; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-69 NATO Black
Mig Filter P400 Grey for Dark Yellow
Mig Washes - P221 Brown; P220 Dark

✓ Good fit; high level of detail; interesting subject.
✗ Vinyl tyres (replaced with Djiti resin items).

Available from

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample kit
www.jbwholesalers.com.au
Trumpeter kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond
Djiti products available online from
www.folditmodels.com

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



The entire vehicle was covered in MIG Productions' Filter P400, Grey for Dark Yellow for a dusty, weatherbeaten appearance.

A diluted mix of XF-57 Buff was sprayed lightly over the wheels and slightly up the sides of the vehicle to give the a more realistic finish.

MELBOURNE MODEL EXPO 2012

The Editor prowls the aisles of Australia's biggest model show, the Melbourne Model Expo

2012 looks like it will be a year of records for the Melbourne Model Expo.

The show was still taking place as I wrote this, but by the time the dust settles it is likely that Model Expo will have seen its greatest number of visitors through the door (last year was more than 13,000), and its largest quantity of competition entries. Almost 650 entries had been registered by the time I left around midday on Saturday.

The Melbourne Model Expo is held every Queen's Birthday long weekend at the Sandown racetrack in southeast suburban Melbourne. The large room was packed full this year, reflecting the mass of competition and display models.

Traders were at full capacity too, with the last tables being snapped up more than six weeks before the show. The hobby is certainly looking healthy in Australia at the moment.

The doors opened officially at noon on Saturday, and the crowds streamed in to the background soundtrack of cars passing the windows at speed on the adjacent race track. It was pleasing to see a large number of young people and families examining the displays.

Expo always presents a welcome opportunity to catch up with old friends and new acquaintances. The most far-flung visitors that I met were Andrzej Ziober and Prez Litewka from Aeroplan magazine in Poland. We had our fair share of trans-Tasman guests too, including Richard Alexander from Wingnut Wings.

The standard of competition models was very high, including some imaginative dioramas and vignettes.

If you are an Australian local or visiting during early June, the Melbourne Model Expo is well worth a visit.

Thanks to the Model Expo Committee and members for their famous Melbourne hospitality during my brief visit. ■

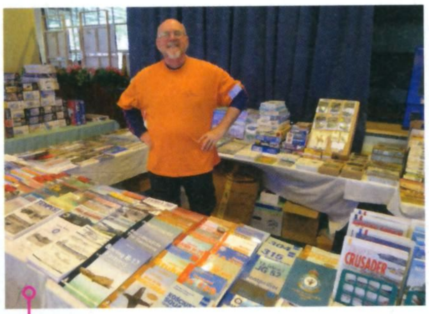
Volunteers hard at work registering entrants early on a cold Saturday morning.

The food hall at Expo was appreciated by showgoers.

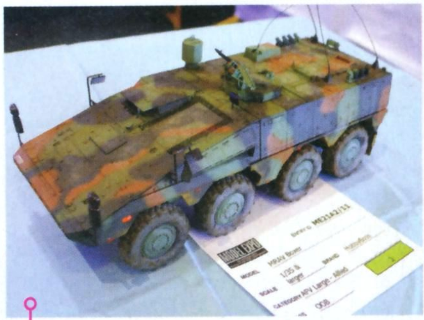
To the victors the spoils. There are plenty of trophies on offer at the Melbourne Model Expo.

MMI regular and co-proprietor of the new online hobby retailer, FoldiT Models, serves a customer at their stand.

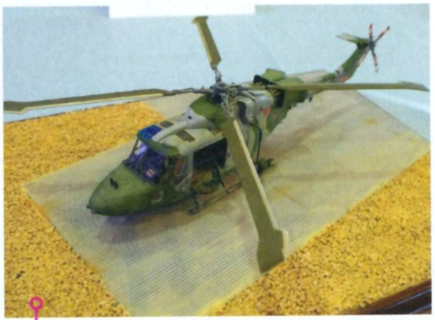
Far-flung visitors included Andrzej Ziober and Prez Litewka from Aeroplan magazine in Poland.



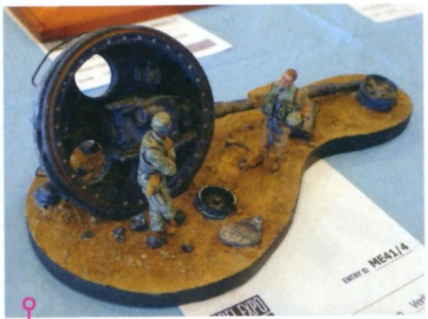
Ley Reynolds of Platypus Publications.



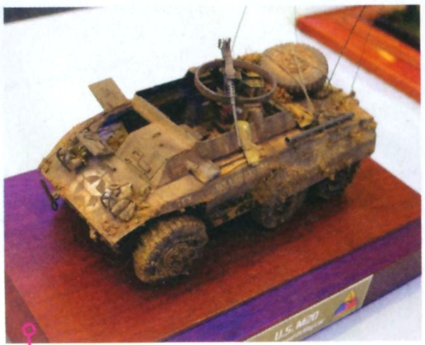
Revell's recent 1:35 scale MRAV Boxer is a big and impressive kit.



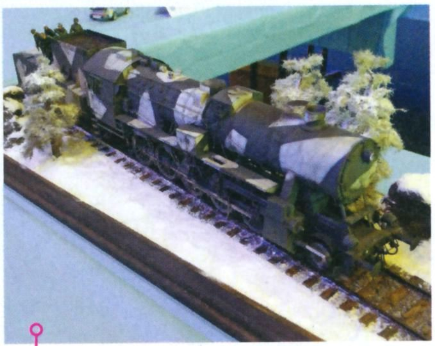
The brand new Airfix 1:48 scale Lynx made an appearance on the competition tables.



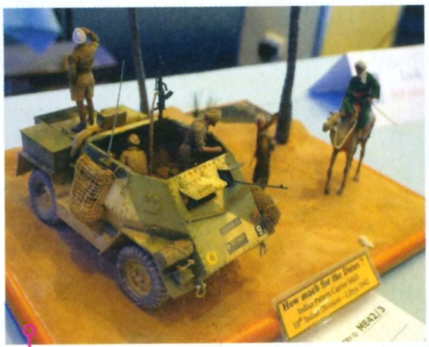
This Verlinden vignette is entitled "Ruins of War".



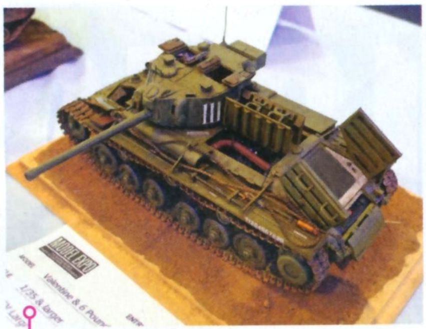
Tamiya's 1:35 scale M20 with mud and chains.



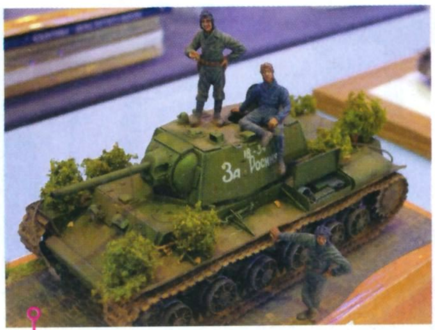
A Jabo's eye view of Trumpeter's big 1:35 scale locomotive.



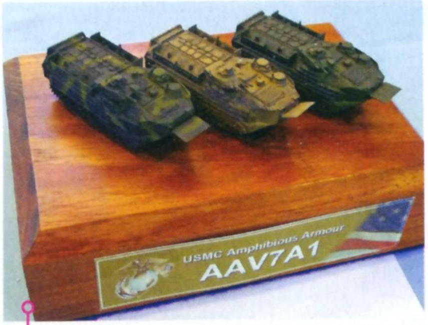
"How Much for the Dates?" – IMA's 1:35 scale resin Indian Pattern Carrier Mk.II.



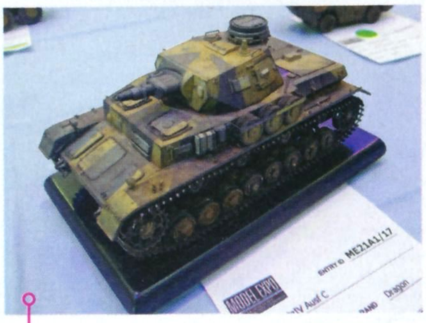
AFV Club's recent 1:35 scale Valentine, all opened up for display.



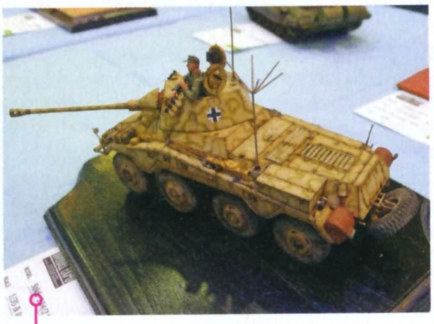
HobbyBoss 1:48 scale KV-1.



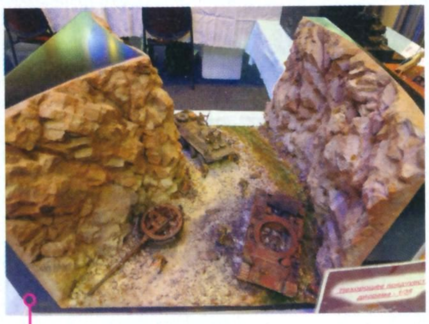
The Junior category was well represented, including these three 1:72 scale USMC AAV7A1s.



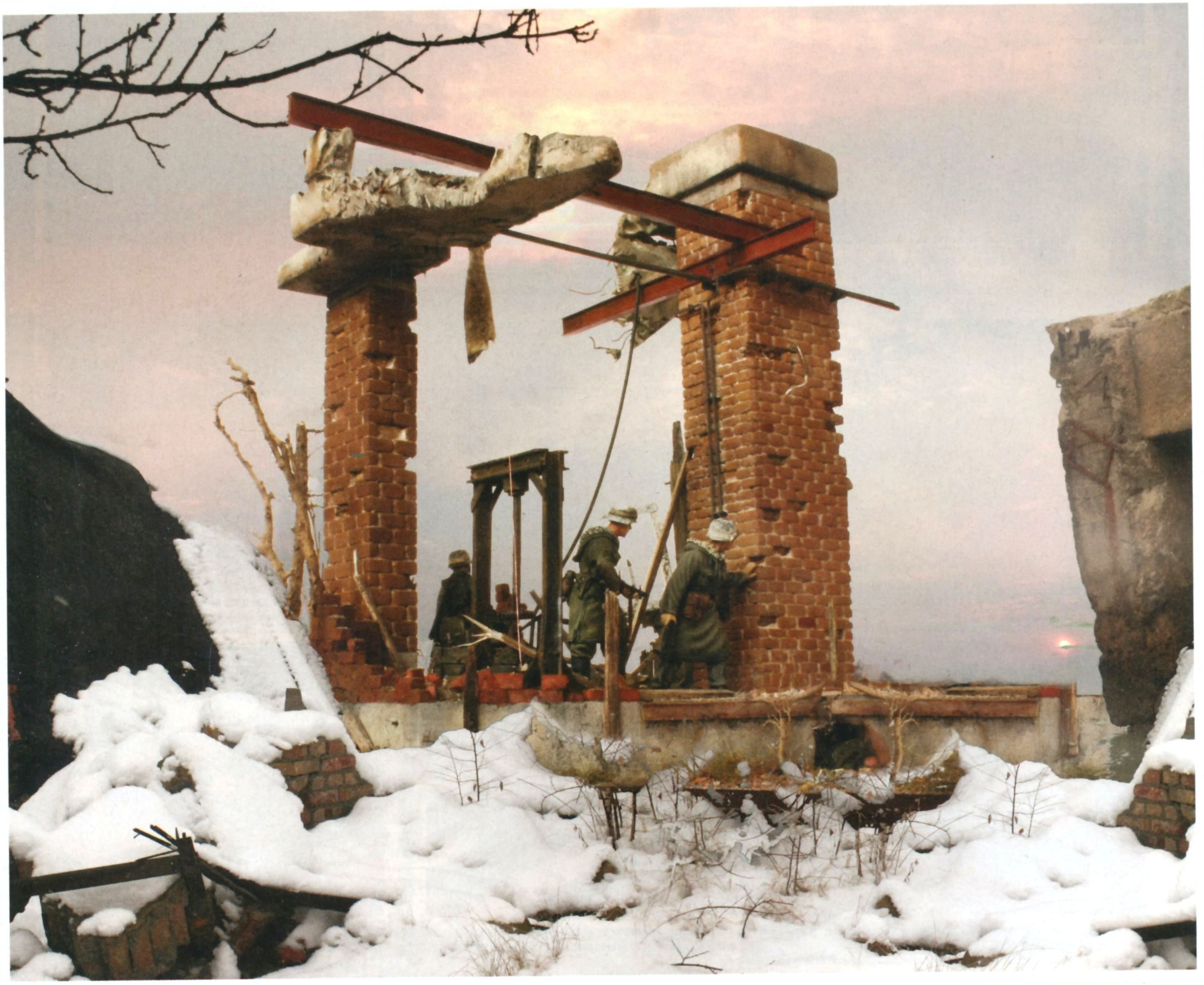
Dragon's 1:35 scale Panzer IV Ausf. C.



Italeri's 1:35 scale Puma.



This impressive diorama was entitled "Bad Feelings", depicting an ambush in Afghanistan during 1985.



KHARKOV 1943

Patrick Dorn from Germany scratch builds the buildings, the rubble and the figures for an ambitious vignette depicting a scene from the Battle of Kharkov, 1943.

All modelling projects usually start with an idea.

I read a book about the Battles of Kharkov that describes colossal tank clashes over vast distances and fierce close fighting between men, often hand-to-hand. During the 3rd battle, the Soviets suffered heavy losses to the Germans, but nevertheless achieved a short-term victory.

THIS WAS THE INSPIRATION

The idea came to my mind to somehow display a little scene that might have happened at that time. Additionally - after a break from scale modelling I wanted to find a way back into hobby with something small. I was uncertain whether it would succeed or not, but I was determined to enjoy the attempt.

The result of this exercise is a little vignette showing a small combat team of 1st SS Division Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler moving carefully through ruins of a suburb of northern Kharkov.

MAKING A SCENE

For me, scale modelling is not only the assembly and painting of kits. It is as much about creating an interesting scene that can convey some kind of atmosphere to the viewer. In this case, I have used remaining materials from house construction, and I sculpted the figures myself. The only commercial things here are the heads (from Hornet range) and some soldiers equipment like pistols, ammunition bags etc. But let's take a look at the details.

Some time ago I read an article about making buildings from styrofoam and its seemed to be quite simple. I also had a reference picture of an abandoned industrial building with lots of old machines, cables and debris scattered around. This was my inspiration for the main ruin.

I took some styrodur (a heat insulation product) and cut a cube out of the material using a sharp knife. I cut the brick pattern using a ruler and the same knife, followed by gentle sanding to create a rough looking texture.

I repeated the procedure for the other section of the building, the concrete foundation and the stairs (the latter without the brick texture). All these elements were easily assembled using white glue and after an hour the basic arrangement of the scene was complete.

Thereafter, some broken structures and damage that I made from further styrodur parts were added to the scene and secured in place using plastic glue. The glue works on this material like acid and burns differently, creating very realistic looking crumbled structures into the foam block. These parts were joined with steel wire, then bent into position. Broken concrete parts from the hall ceiling were also added after this was finished.

Big steel joists made from plastic strips connected the ruins. These were intended to convey the impression of a former roof. The beams also represented another interesting layer for the vignette and creating "atmosphere".

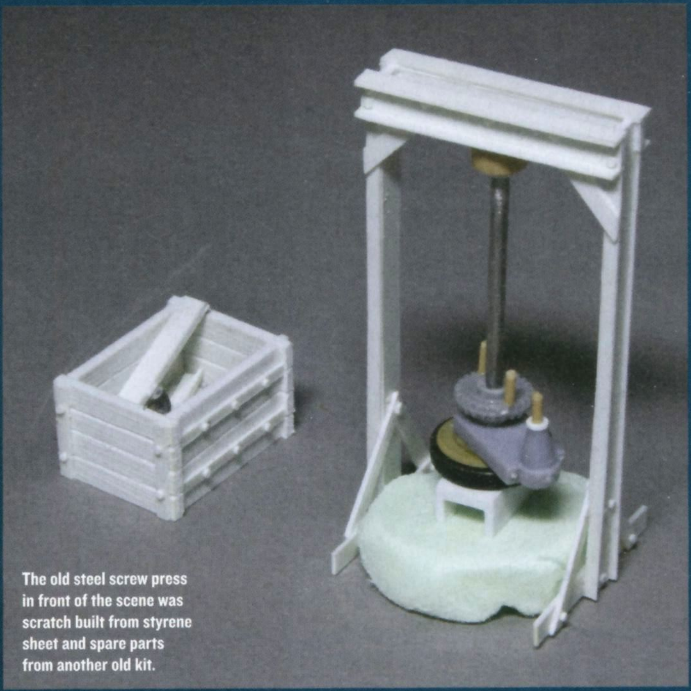
DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS...

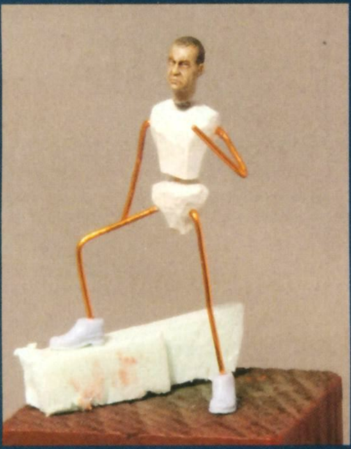
I completely scratch built the old steel screw press in front of the scene from styrene sheet and spare parts from another old kit; with details added from a piece of soldering wire and some rivets made with a punch and die-set. The same procedure was followed with the wooden tool box nearby - simply some pieces of plastic, some scratch building and sanding for the woodgrain texture, some rivets and that's it. The tools inside are spare parts.

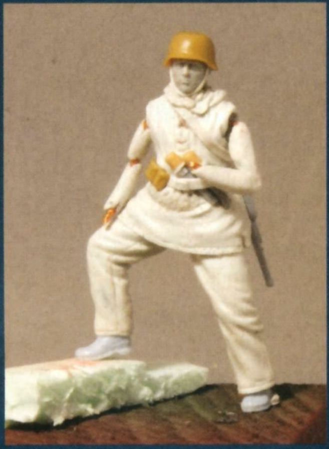
I installed several tubes (soldering wire) and pipes (brass wire of different strength) onto the walls to simulate the industrial infrastructure. A damaged fuse box made from the packaging of my wife's hair tint is a nice little detail. It is made from a metallic foil that could be easily bent into shape. The stair railing is made from thin plastic rod. An old lamp was made from a yogurt lid and soldering wire. I cut the wooden window frame and the balustrade from a wooden stirring stick obtained during my last visit to McDonalds!

Sanding and heavy weathering using oils (Black, Burnt Umber and Sienna) and turpentine resulted in quite a dirty old and damaged look. I completed the area around the ruins using real earth, sand, bigger and smaller stones, parts of roof tiles, an old oil barrel and wire. Some drill tubes leaning against the wall, mud flaps, broken bricks, broken wooden frames, dried plants from my garden, and and and...

The old trees are made from roots, while the grass is hemp. This may be sourced from Woodland Scenics. ▶

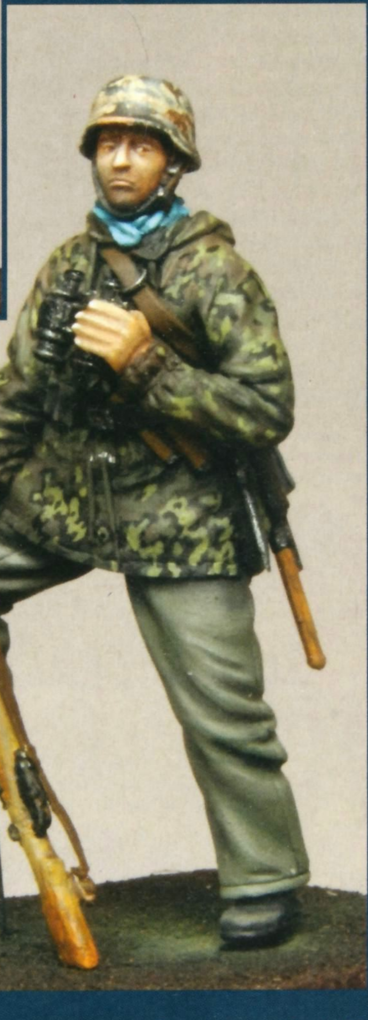

The old steel screw press in front of the scene was scratch built from styrene sheet and spare parts from another old kit.

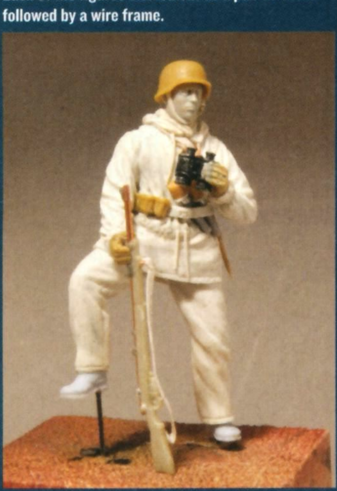

Each of the figures started out as a pair of boots followed by a wire frame.

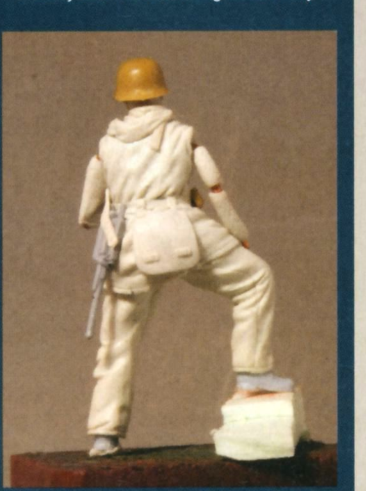

The body bulk is filled out using Aves 2k Putty.

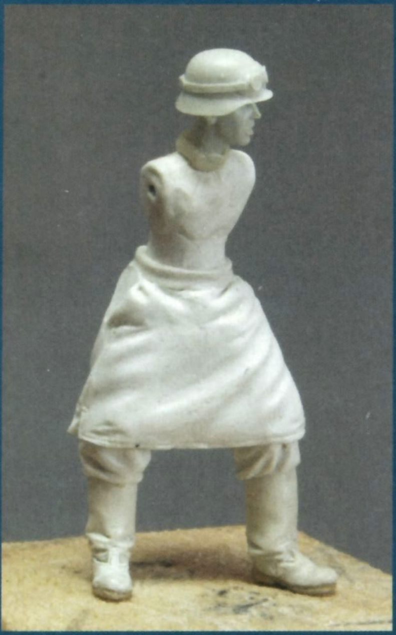
The faces are painted with a blend of oil paints and also acrylics.

The Oak-Leaf-Pattern for the SS uniform was painted in several stages using a 00 brush.

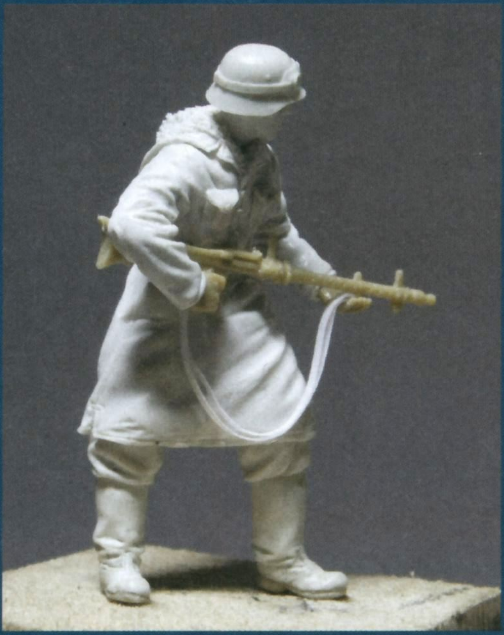



The putty normally sets after two hours, after which it can be sanded into shape.

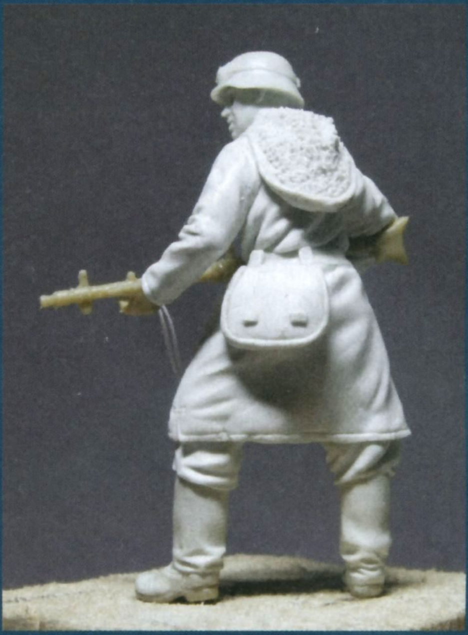

The folds and creases are added in small stages.



The second figure was built up the same way. Note the basic shape of the torso compared to the first stage of the bottom of the greatcoat and the uniform pants.



The heads are from the Hornet range.



The texture of the inside of the hood was carefully added to the still-workable putty.

SCRATCH BUILDING THE FIGURES

Every modeller knows that figures add life to a scene, but you normally have to adapt your scene to the figure sets available on market. I don't like this limitation and so I have tried to reverse this situation by adapting the figures to the scene. Of course, this demands the creation of figures or changing them more or less - an aspect of scale modelling that is not absolutely the easiest thing, but that can be a lot of fun as well.

Time for a break. During a cup of coffee I imagined how the characters could interact in order to deliver a realistic scene. This is strongly influenced by the body positions so this is a very important part.

I made all the figures of this vignette myself using the skeleton wire method. Please understand that I have practised a lot and made many mistakes early on that will never be shown in public. But I learned a lot with every failed project and I always try to improve my skills when I make a new attempt.

Additionally, you can substitute the most difficult parts like head and hands with some high quality products available on the market. I did so this time. The SS men got heads from Hornet range, while the hands came from remaining parts of other figure sets (Tamiya, Dragon). All other parts are sculptured.

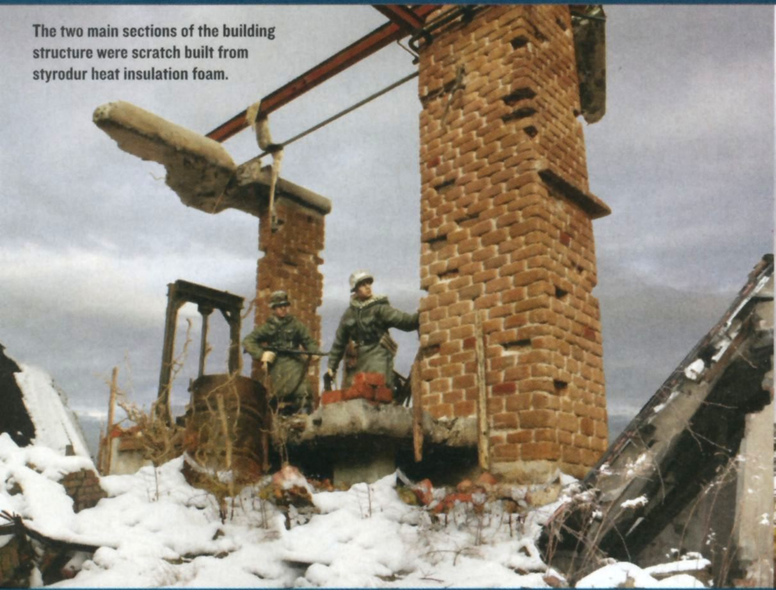
Normally I start by making the boots. This is followed by a skeleton of wire glued into the boots. At this early stage I bend the wire to the desired body posture – this is quite a time consuming task. The body bulk is filled out using Aves 2k Putty, which normally sets after 2 hours so it can be sanded into shape then. The finally sculpting process starts with an appropriate amount of putty applied onto the figure in a thin layer on a relatively small area. I smooth out the surface first and after about 10 to 15 minutes I start to press in the folds and wrinkles. Here I always have reference pictures on hand and sometimes I take photos of myself wearing nearly the same style of clothes and having the same body pose that I want to copy for my figure. It might sound a little bit strange but is a very good reference to check out realistic looking of clothes. This proceeds the same way for the jacket (sometimes with the lower and upper part divided by the belt), the arms and further details like pockets and equipment or helmet. During every step I check my references and I continually look at the figure from some distance to keep the correct proportions.

Concerning the painting, I have used two methods this time. I painted the face with oils and acrylics in a mix. For the body I used Vallejo acrylics. The painting method with acrylics has been already discussed by figure modellers who dominate this method much better than I.

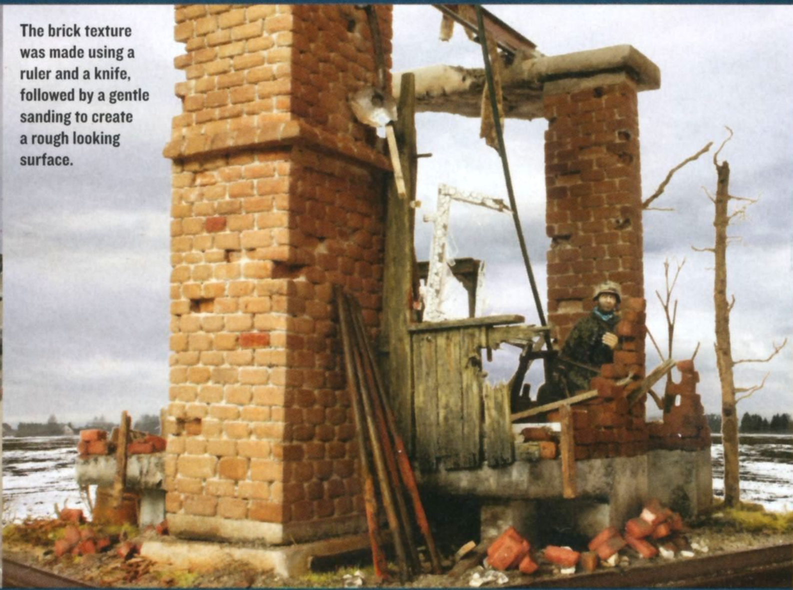
I chose the Oak-Leaf-Pattern for the SS uniform, which was worn during the spring.

This pattern was painted in several stages using a 00 brush.

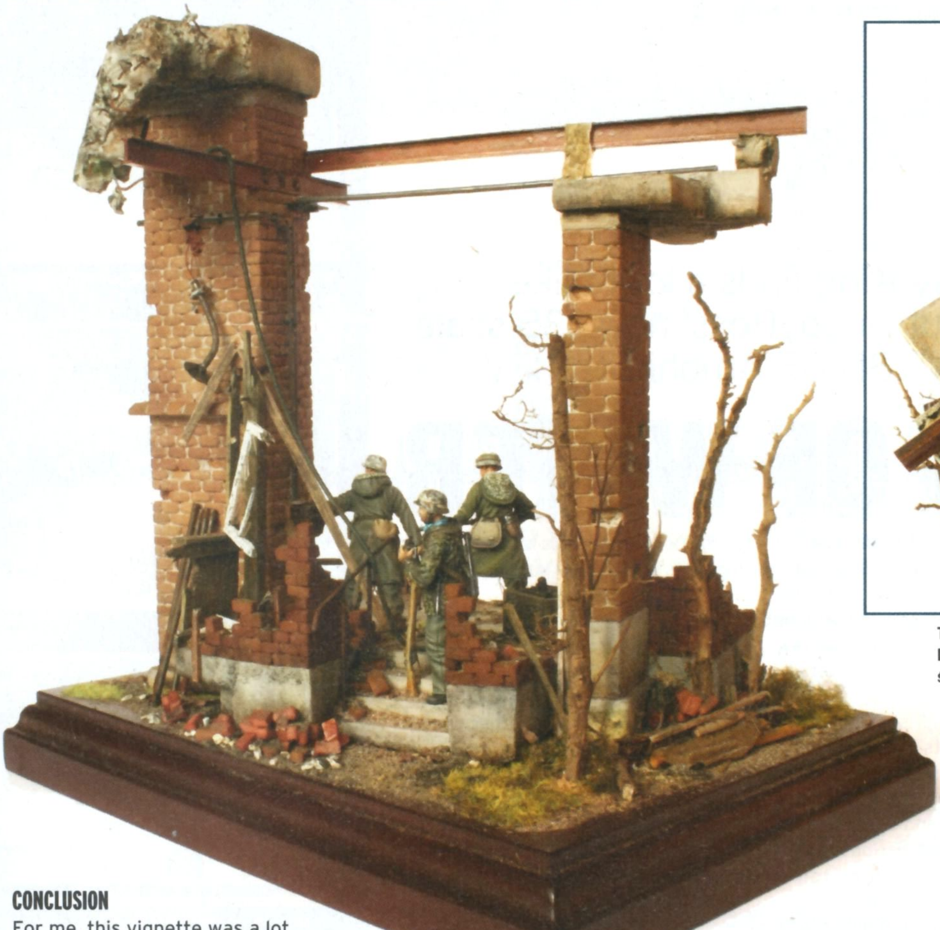
Some more details here and some debris and roots there, some different colours and some washes were added and that's it. Finally, all the components were positioned so the viewer is transported to our little story inside the big conflict.

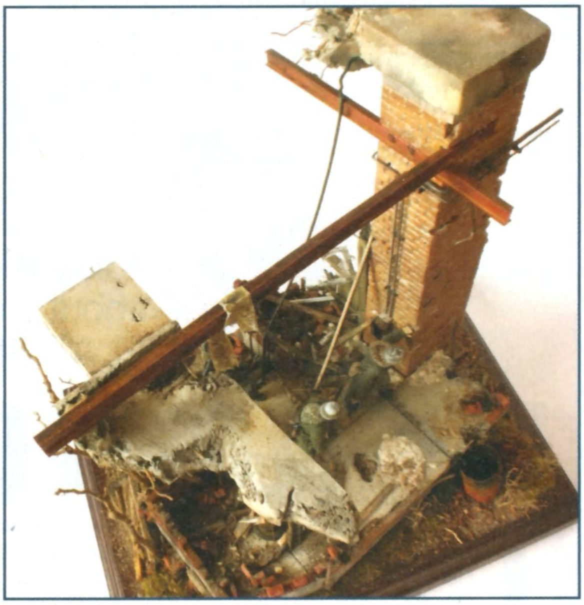


The two main sections of the building structure were scratch built from styrodur heat insulation foam.



The brick texture was made using a ruler and a knife, followed by a gentle sanding to create a rough looking surface.





The steel girders add another interesting layer to the scene. Broken structures and damage were added to the scene and secured in place using plastic glue.

CONCLUSION

For me, this vignette was a lot of fun after an absence from the hobby. This is not only due to the figures in their special interaction, but also because I haven't used commercial products – with the exception of the heads, hands and ammunition bags.

Concerning the ruins, the scene allowed me to be "creative destructive" (for lack of a better term).

Hopefully, I have created an interesting little scene that may have happened somewhere on the Eastern Front during the Third Battle of Kharkov.

I hope that you will enjoy it. ■

Modelspec

Scratch Built 1:35 Vignette and Figures
Kharkov 1943

Tools and Modelling Products:

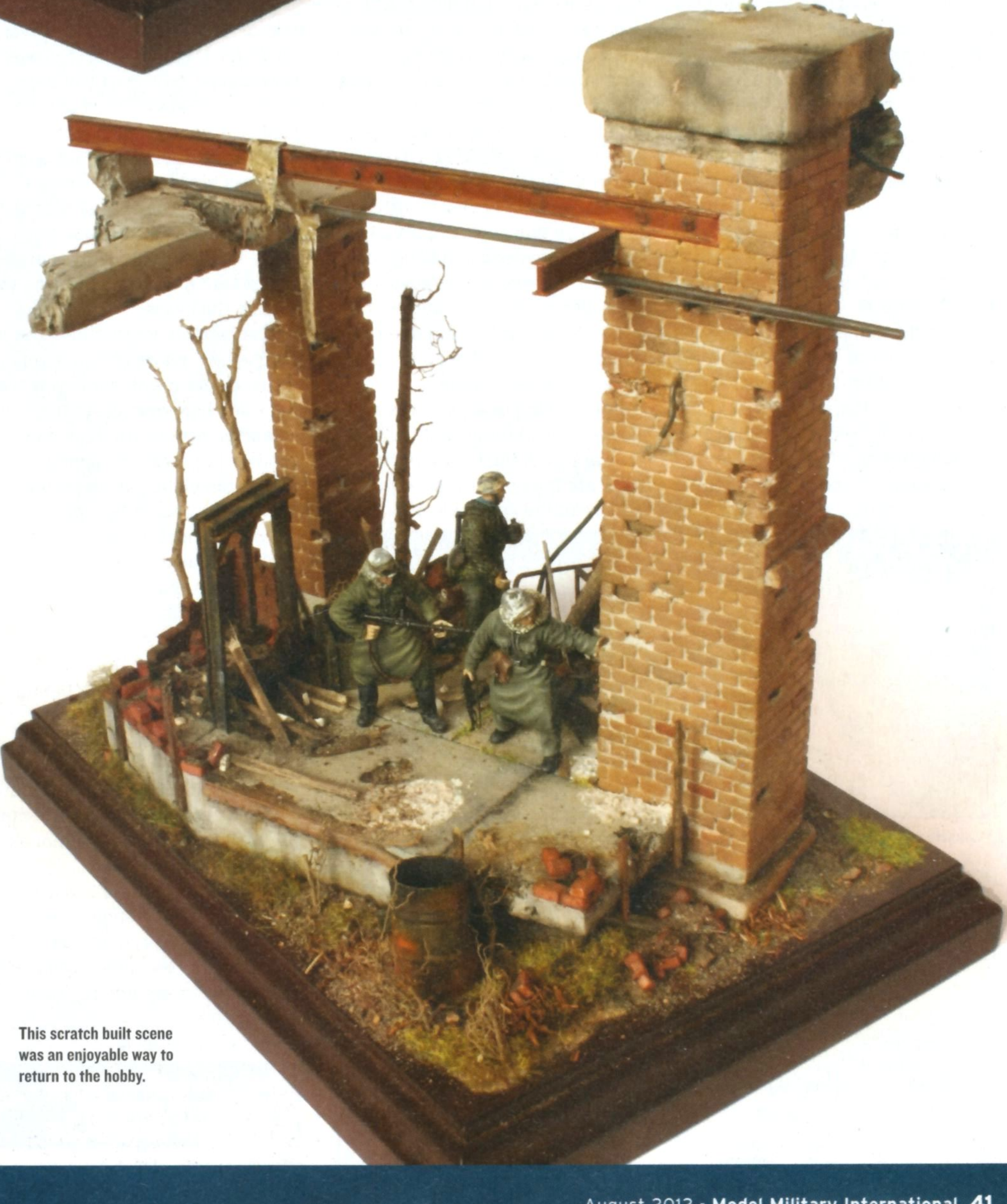
SS Heads from the Hornet range, Hands from the spares box (Dragon and Tamiya parts), Aves 2k Putty, Woodland Scenics Grass, Sharp knife, Styrofoam, Styrodur, Steel wire, Styrene sheet, Pieces of plastic, Soldering wire, Brass wire, Metallic foil, Plastic rod, Wooden stirring stick from McDonalds, Real earth, Sand, Bigger and smaller stones, Parts of roof tiles, An old oil barrel, Broken wooden frames, Dried plants

Paints and Finishing Products:

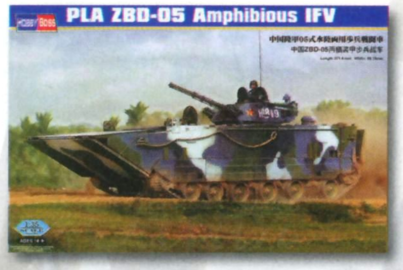
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints - Lamp Black, Burnt Umber and Sienna
Vallejo acrylics - Various

Reference:

Last Victory in Russia: The SS-Panzerkorps and Manstein's Kharkov Counteroffensive February-March 1943 (George M., Jr. Nipe (Author))



This scratch built scene was an enjoyable way to return to the hobby.



Andy King finds a lot to like about HobbyBoss' new 1:35 scale PLA ZBD-05 Amphibious IFV.

DUCK OUT OF WATER

The ZBD-05 is an amphibious IFV (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) for the Chinese PLAMC (Peoples Liberation Army Navy Marine Corps) and is similar in concept to the US Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle. Its role is to carry troops from offshore assault ships, land them on beaches and be able to provide good fire support. The main distinguishing feature is the huge front bow plate and rear transom that are hydraulically lowered before hitting the water and with the shape of the hull it is capable of reaching speeds up to 25 kph (15mph) over water.

The main armament is a 30 mm cannon, a coaxial 7.62mm mg, two anti-tank missiles and eight smoke grenade launchers. It has a crew of three, can carry nine marines and as you can imagine that's pretty much all I could find out about the vehicle via the internet and of course the side of the box the kit came in.

HobbyBoss has released a rather fine kit of this particular IFV and the first thing that strikes you is the size of the hull. After reviewing the CV90 by HobbyBoss, this thing is even bigger even though it only carries two extra troops. All parts are well moulded in tan styrene although there are a few sink marks present on the hull sides and top as well as minor amount of flash. Compared to what few pictures I could find the detail seems good.

The kit comprises more than 800 parts including the tracks, some steel tubing for the hydraulic rams, two small frets of etch brass and a well printed decal sheet with various tactical numbers and red stars.

Like the CV90, there is no interior in that big hull but unless you make a polite request to the Chinese government for some photographs you may as well glue the doors and hatches shut. Also with the rear transom raised you wouldn't see in anyway.

On a dry run, the fit of the hull is excellent however with the top being such a big area I would recommend installing some support halfway as there will be a lot of flexing, also the bottom hull sides bow in a bit (again due to the length) and will need spacers to keep the width even.

The running gear features some nice bolt head detail and the track links are individual ones with separate guide horns, so with 103 links required each side plus the guide horns equals an awful lot of parts that should keep you quiet for a few evenings.

The large bow plate and rear transom are designed to be workable with lots of 'No Cement' icons printed in the instructions but I would fix them either open or closed as it would be easy to snap the hinges. It should be noted that there are some large pin marks visible on the inside of the front plates and if you model the assembly open these will need to be filled.

The turret is busy enough with lots of nice detail and the canvas cover for the gun mantlet is well reproduced, but again there is no interior detail. The rear turret basket is good enough with only a few bits of minor flash, although care will be needed to remove it from the sprue. The anti-tank missiles are well done and the guide fins are reasonably thin but would take a bit more thinning for a scale thickness.

The painting instructions are by far the best bit as both the colour schemes are great; especially the two-tone blue over grey, very colourful indeed. The four-tone scheme has a certain appeal too and as the vehicle is water borne weathering should be loads of fun.

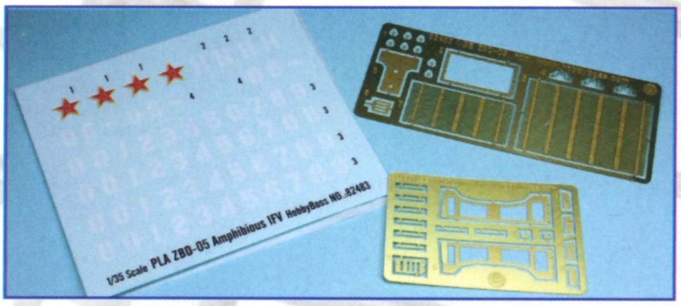
I'll be honest and say I don't know a lot about the vehicle but what I have found in the box is a quality product. Okay, it hasn't got any interior but not many kits IFV kits do, plus the PLA probably won't be forthcoming with a full photographic walk around anytime soon.

This is definitely one for modern Chinese armour fans but with the two vivid colour schemes I think it will have a wider appeal, especially to me.

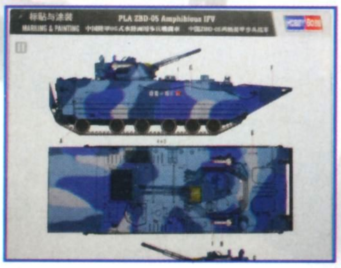
One last note there is a great video on Youtube about the vehicle. Just search for the ZBD-05 (it's a Chinese news item) and that should make you rush out and buy the kit.

Recommended! ■

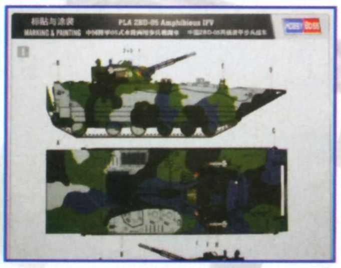
Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample
www.creativemodels.co.uk



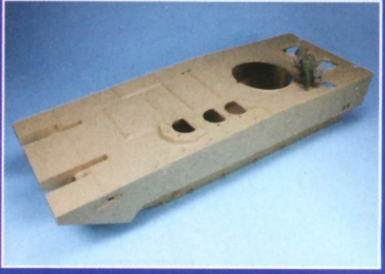
Two photo-etched frets are included.



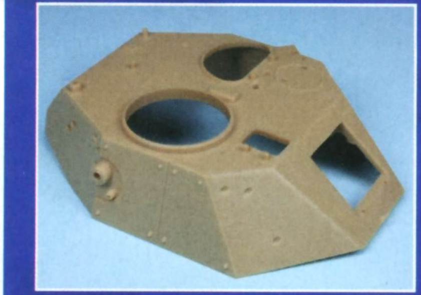
Two interesting colour schemes are provided.



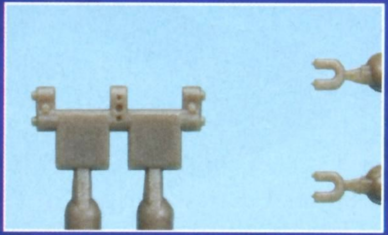
The colour guides are inspiring!



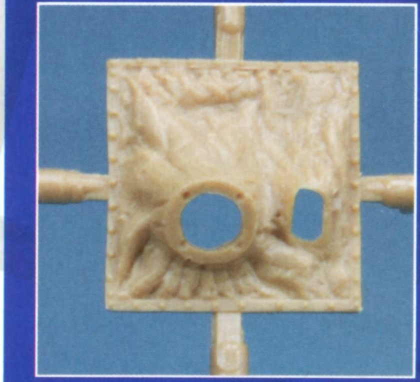
This is one big model. Check the size of the figure perched on the front for scale.



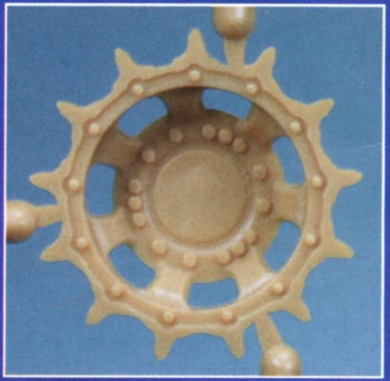
The nicely moulded turret.



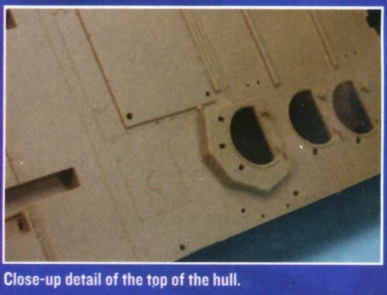
The multi-part track links with their separate guide teeth will keep you out of mischief for a while.



Fabric texture on the mantlet cover.



Nice detail on the drive sprockets.



Close-up detail of the top of the hull.

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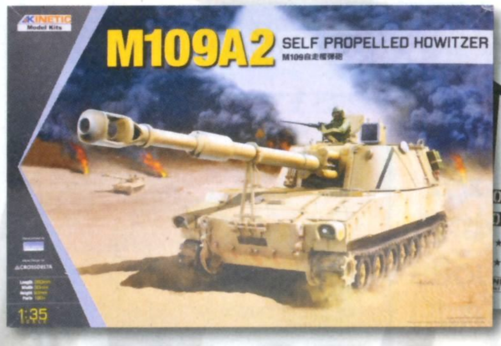

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B0F
24IF41
24IF41
B13 B13
B-22 B-22
1CAV 1CAV
1F82 1F82
HB 60
3
IA6-14F
C II
A-45
1/35 M109A2 (61006)
01-136-61006

Markings are supplied for three vehicles.

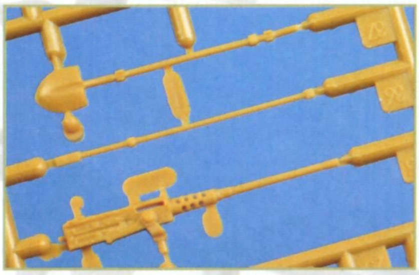
SON OF A GUN!

The Editor gets an early look at Kinetic's all-new 1:35 scale M109A2 Self-Propelled Howitzer.

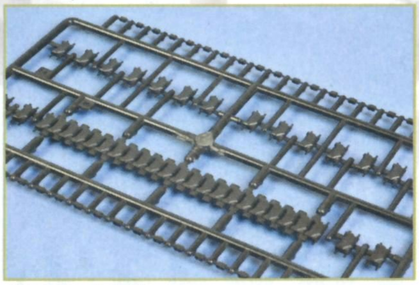
The M109 is an American-made self-propelled 155 mm howitzer, first introduced in the early 1960s. It was upgraded a number of times to today's M109A6 Paladin. The M109 family is the most common Western indirect-fire support weapon of manoeuvre brigades of armoured and mechanized infantry divisions.

The M109 has a crew of six: the section chief, the driver, the gunner, the assistant gunner and two ammunition handlers. The gunner aims the cannon left or right (deflection), the assistant gunner aims the cannon up and down (quadrant). The M109A6 Paladin needs only a crew of four: the Commander, driver, gunner and ammunition loader.

The M109A2 variant incorporated 27 reliability, availability, and maintainability (RAM) mid-life improvements. Most notably, the long barrelled 155 mm M185 cannon in the M178 gun mount, ballistic protection for the panoramic telescope, counterbalanced travel lock, and the ability to mount the M140 alignment device. Stowage was increased from 28 rounds of 155 mm, to 36 rounds. .50cal ammunition remained at 500 rounds.



The .50 cal machine gun has some sink marks and would best be replaced.



Link and length tracks.

The M109 saw its combat debut in Vietnam. Israel used the M109 against Egypt in the 1973 Yom Kippur War and in the 1982 Lebanon War and 2006 Lebanon War. Iran used the M109 in the Iran-Iraq War during the 1980s.

The M109 saw service with the British Army, the Egyptian Army and Saudi Arabian Army in the 1991 Gulf War. The M109 also saw service with the U.S. Army in the Gulf War, as well as in the Iraq War from 2003.*

Kinetic has followed up its early-2012 debut M-ATV release with another modern subject – the M109A2.

Kinetic's new 1:35 scale M109A2 comprises approximately 328 parts in caramel and black coloured plastic. Bucking the trend somewhat, Kinetic has no multimedia parts or even vinyl in this kit. The focus seems to be to keep the building process as simple and straightforward as possible while retaining a decent level of detail.

Please note that this is an all-new kit with no parts in common with the older Italeri offering.

Kinetic's plastic parts are presented in a caramel colour and are mainly free from moulding flaws. Some of the smaller parts have a little flash to clean up though.

The level of overall detail is good.

Construction commences with a nice looking mantlet followed by the turret assembly. This is quite a busy area with stowage boxes, tools and a .50 cal heavy machine gun. The tools and .50 cal are not really up to the standard of the rest of the kit and will best be replaced with aftermarket items or parts from the spares box. The rear stowage baskets are a bit chunky but should look acceptable when assembled.

There is no interior but hatches are supplied as separate parts. I am sure that it is only a matter of time until some enterprising resin manufacturer decides to fill this large space for all those superdetailers out there.

The big 155mm barrel is split into two horizontal halves, with alternative muzzle brakes being supplied as an additional two parts each.

An alternative lower hull front is included on the sprues too, but not mentioned in the instructions. This, and the parts breakdown of the lower hull, suggest that more M109 variants may be on Kinetic's drawing board.

Suspension arms are separate parts (rejoice, diorama builders), while the road wheels are cleverly designed to enclose the wheel between the tyre halves. This should make painting easier.

Link and length tracks are supplied in black plastic – long straight sections for each top and bottom run; and individual links and connectors for the front and rear curved sections. The tracks are generally good, but the track pins are poorly represented on the edges of the track connectors on the long runs.

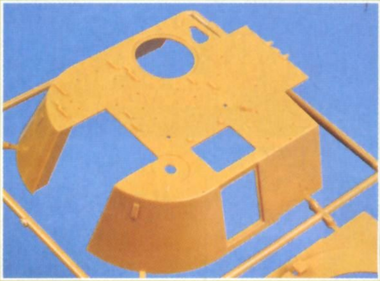
Markings are provided for three vehicles – one each British and US from Iraq in 1991, and a NATO-cam US Army machine based in the USA during 1987.

The small decal sheet is printed by Cartograf. As you would expect, registration and printing are perfect.

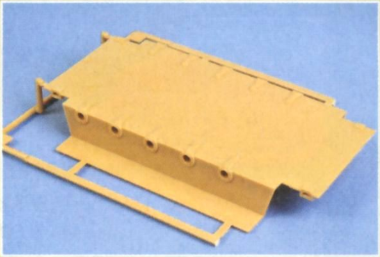
Kinetic's 1:35 scale M109A2 looks to be reasonably detailed and should be quite straightforward to build. The moulding quality is good, and it is nice to have solid plastic link and length tracks. The main shortcomings – the tools, .50 cal and the side track connector detail – will be pretty straightforward to replace or correct if they bother you, but will be quite functional if they do not.

Recommended. ■

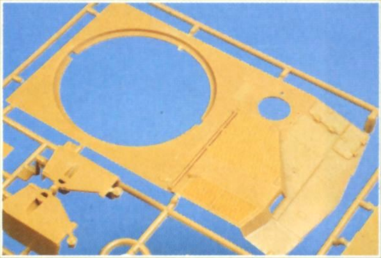
Thanks to Lucky Model for the sample www.luckymodel.com



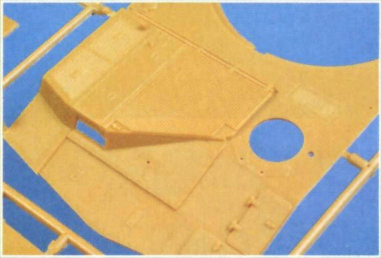
The big main turret part.



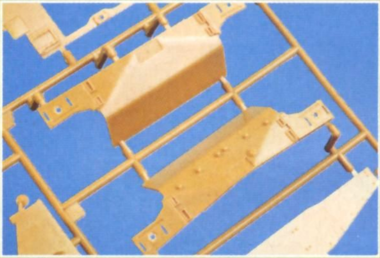
The lower hull is moulded as a partial tub.



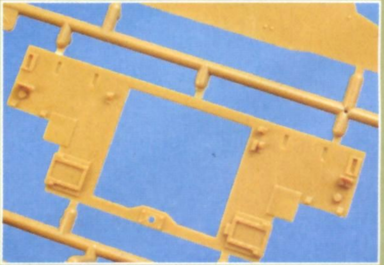
The main upper hull moulding.



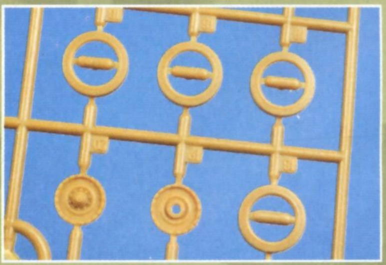
Anti-skid texture and vents are moulded into this part.



Alternative nose sections are offered.



Hatches are separate, but there is no interior detail.



The tyres are moulded separate from the front wheel hubs – nice for painting!

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* History summarised from Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M109_howitzer

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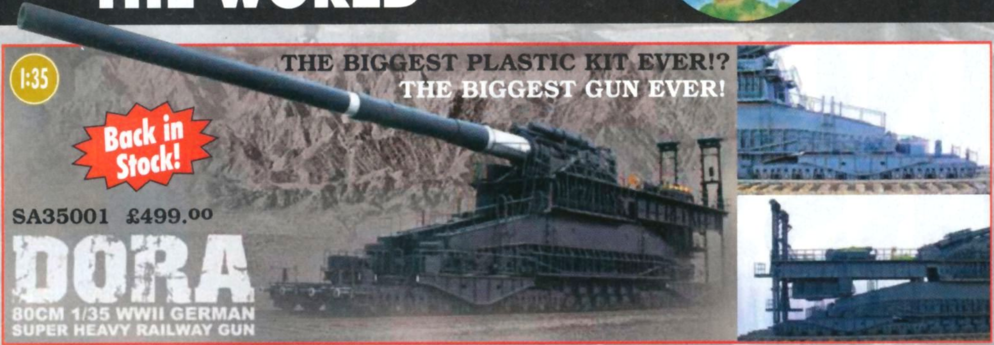
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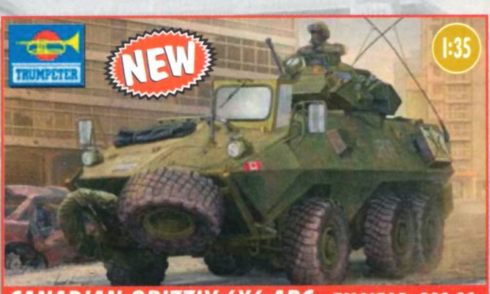
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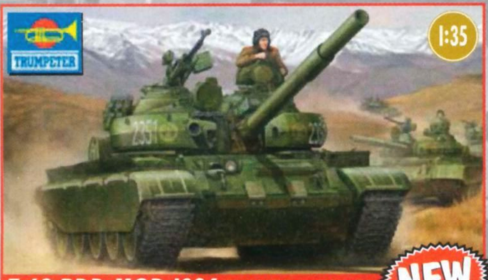
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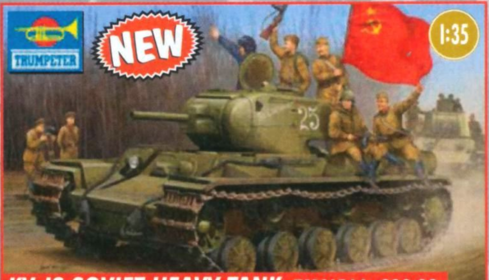
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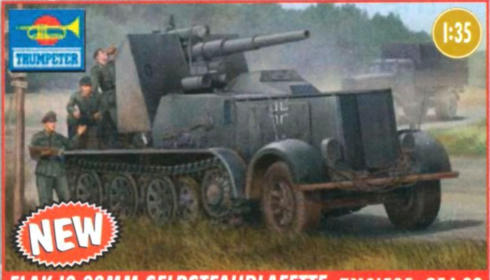
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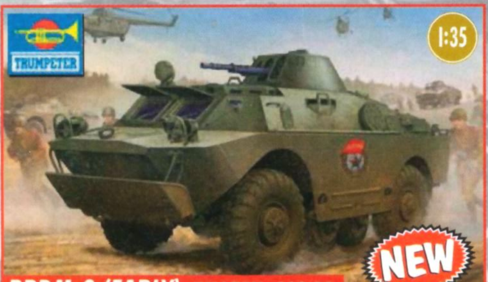
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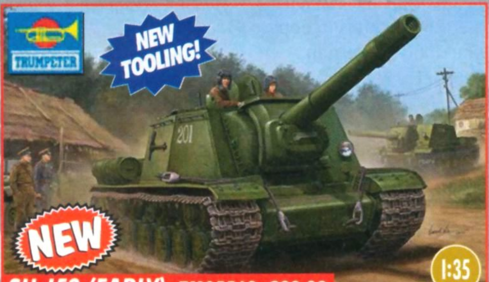
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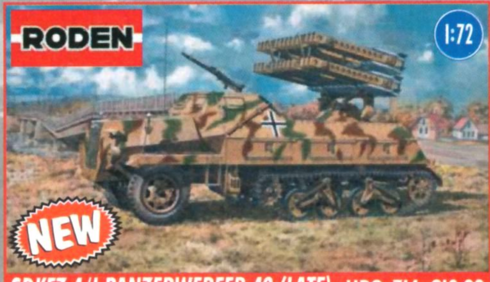
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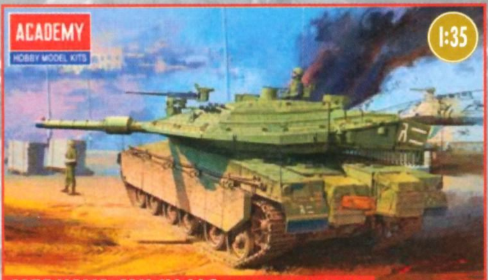
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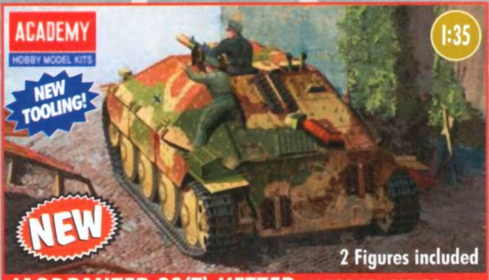
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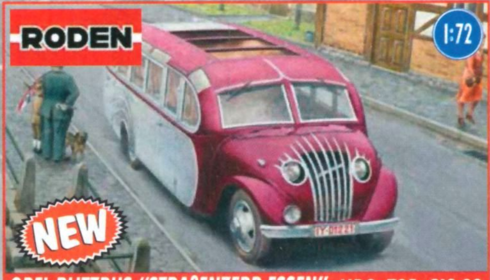
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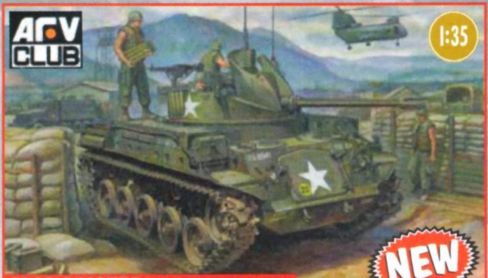
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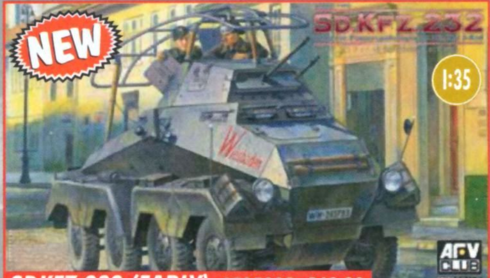
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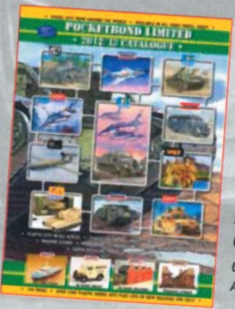
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BELTRING PANZERS

Zack Sex spends some time with the Panzer troops are Beltring 2011.

With the rattle of machine gun fire and the loud thud of explosions, the tranquillity of Paddock Wood is shattered again.

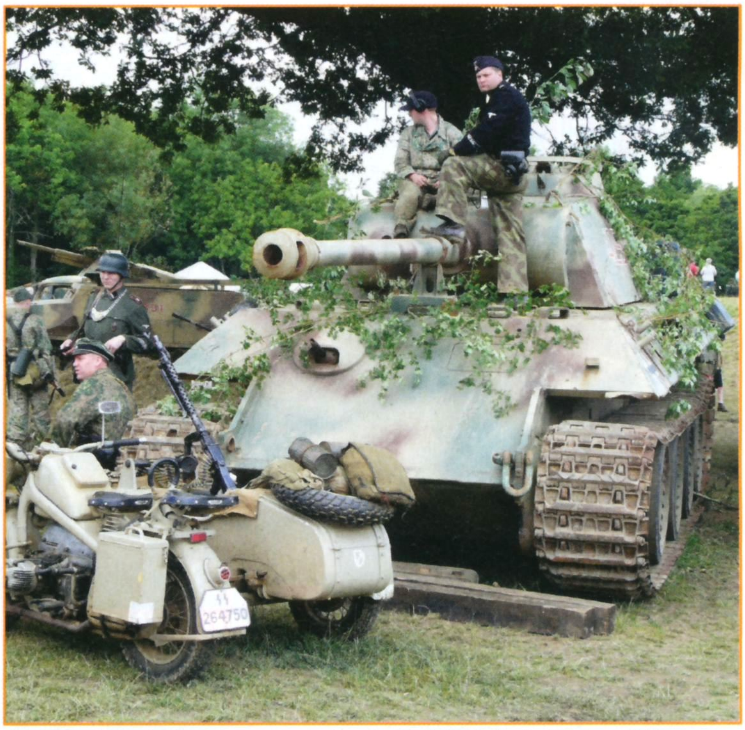
This can only mean one thing - the War and Peace Show is back in town.

This annual militaria extravaganza is a must for military enthusiasts, vehicle collectors and modellers alike.

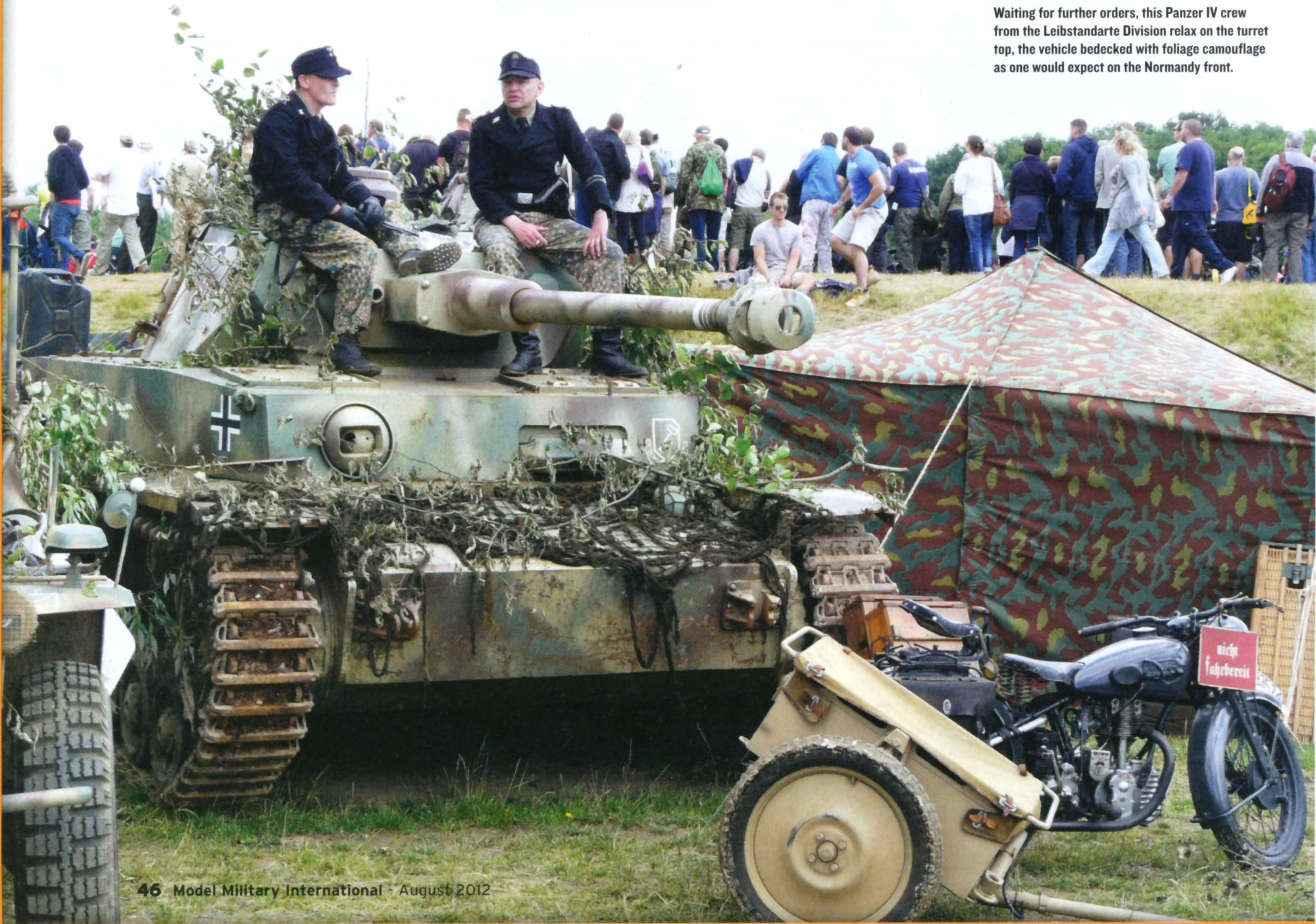
This year's German Panzer re-enactor troop was one of the outstanding displays, offering plenty of visual reference and inspiration for the WWII armour modeller.

Everything from uniforms, fuel cans, bicycles, machine guns and Panzers to Panzerschrecks were on display.

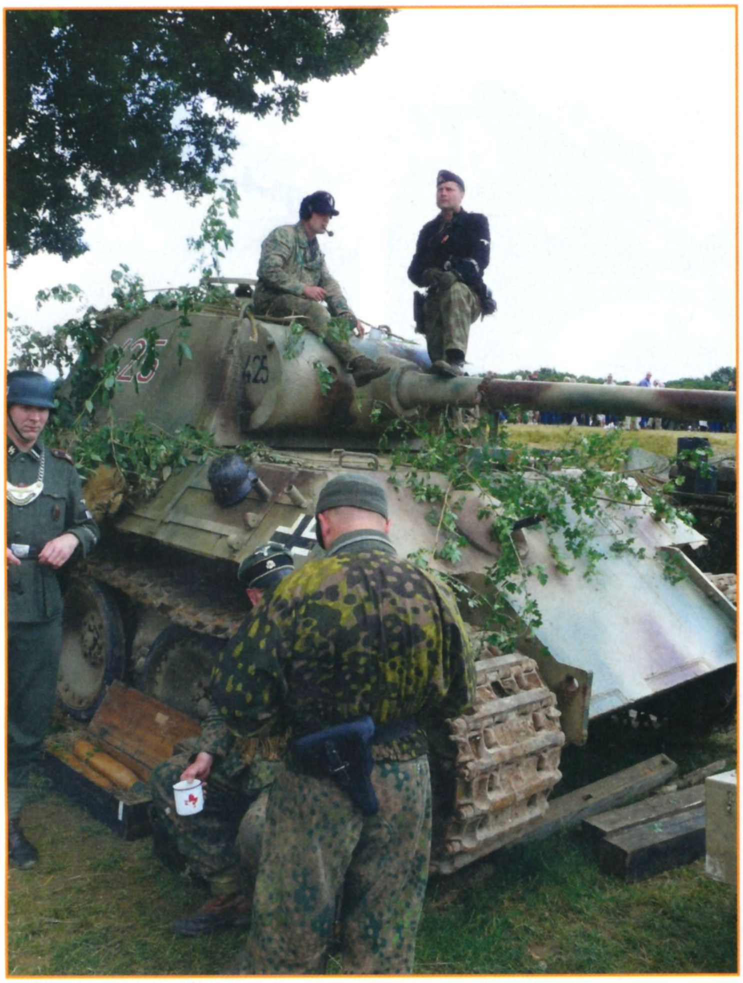
The re-enactors themselves even managed to capture the look of well-worn and war-weary troops after their weeklong sojourn in their Beltring billets. ■



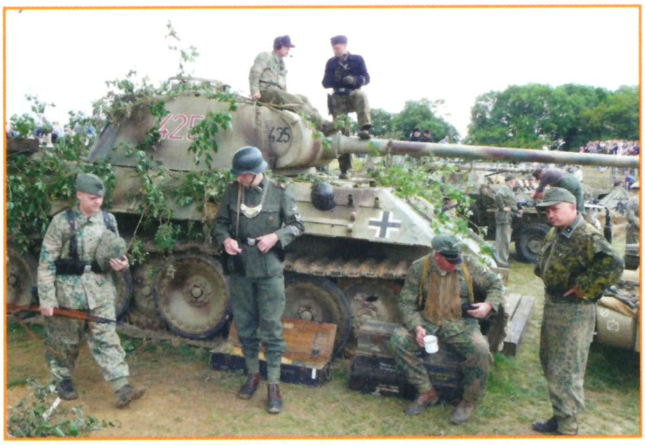
A mid production Panther D, its crew awaiting further orders. Parked to the fore is a Zundapp and sidecar combination, a useful runaround and light recon vehicle.



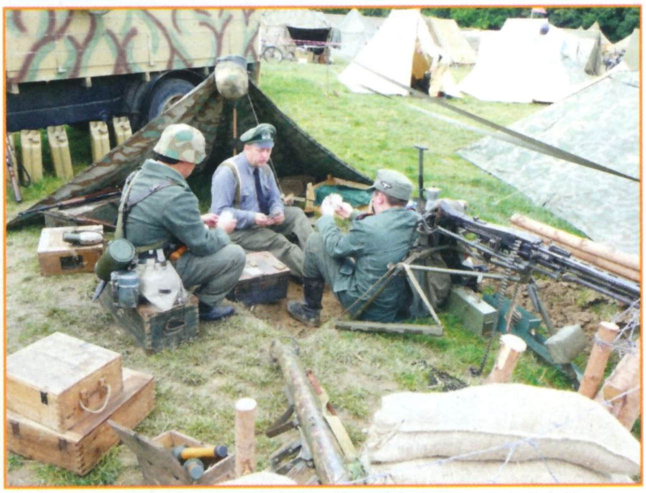
Waiting for further orders, this Panzer IV crew from the Leibstandarte Division relax on the turret top, the vehicle bedecked with foliage camouflage as one would expect on the Normandy front.



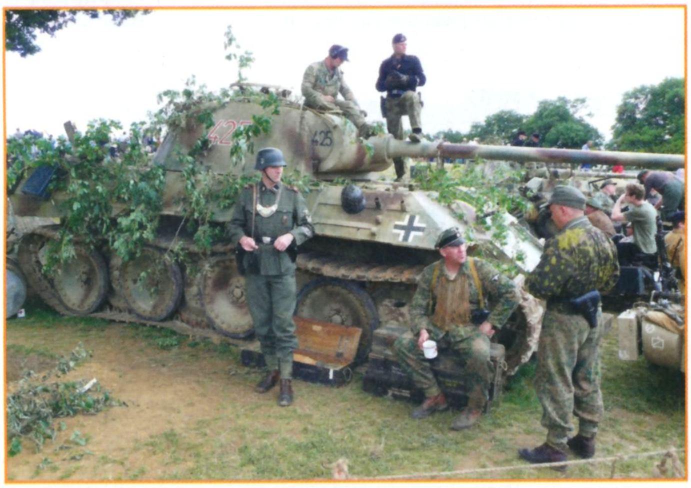
Detail shot of an SS trooper displaying well-worn camouflage trousers and somewhat newer top, overlooked by a member of the chaindogs or German military police.



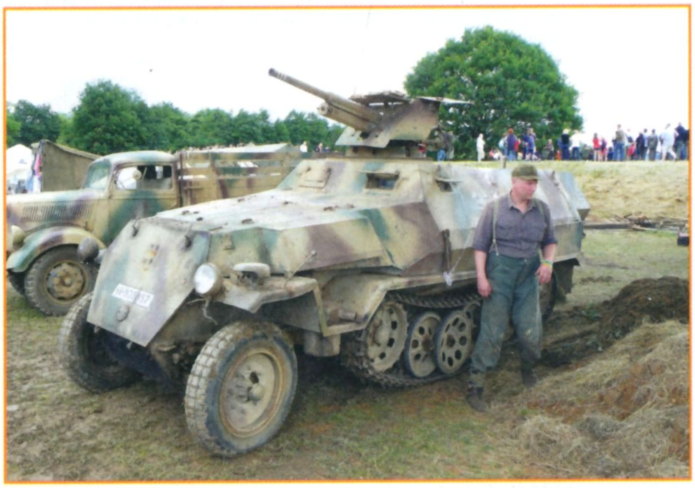
A side profile of the Panther D in front of which is a good selection of individuals in the type of uniforms one would expect to find in a late war German unit.



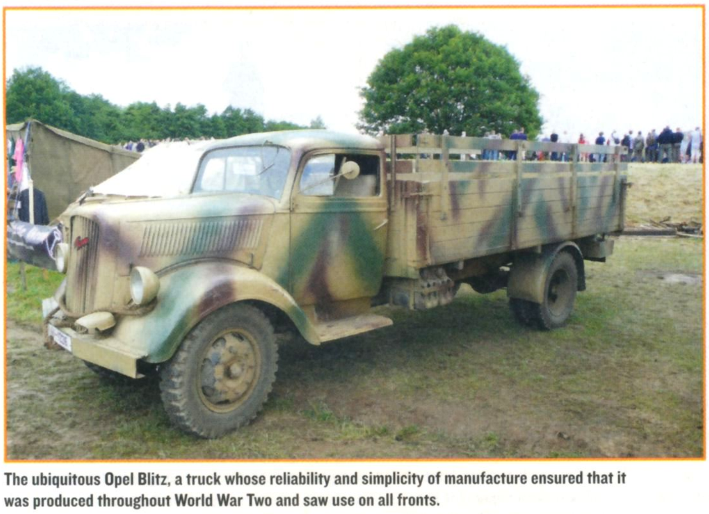
A pair of Wehrmacht troops pass the time with an SS comrade playing cards dug in behind an MG 42. Stick grenades and a Panzerschreck are also available close to hand.



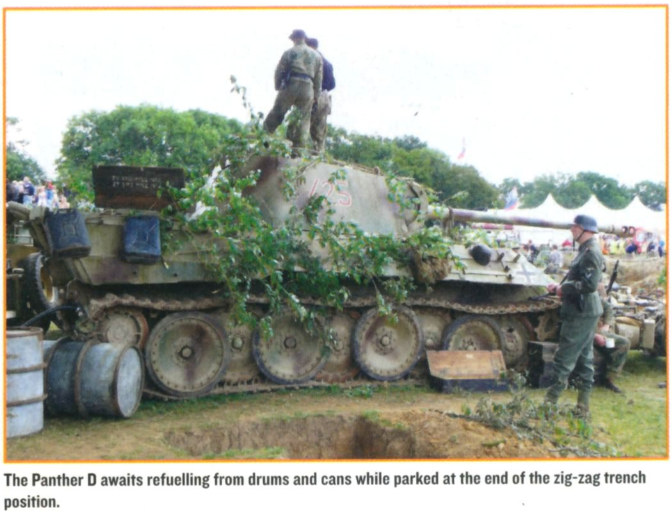
German military policeman anxiously eyes a pair of SS combat veterans unlikely to take much heed of his orders.



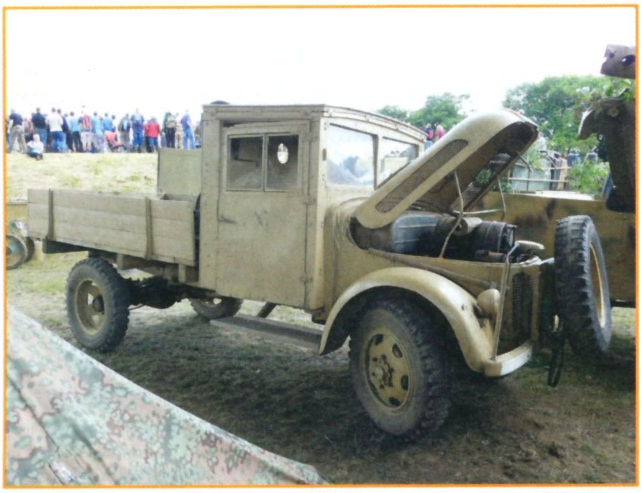
Front three-quarter view of a mid-production Hanomag with 37mm anti tank gun mounted.



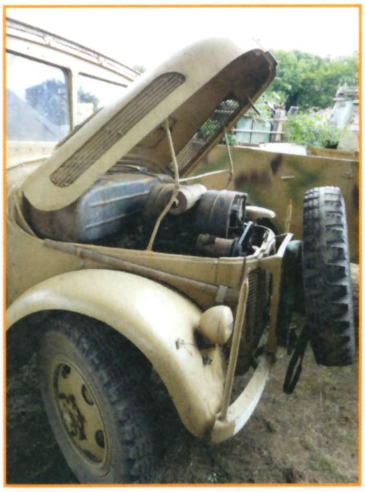
The ubiquitous Opel Blitz, a truck whose reliability and simplicity of manufacture ensured that it was produced throughout World War Two and saw use on all fronts.



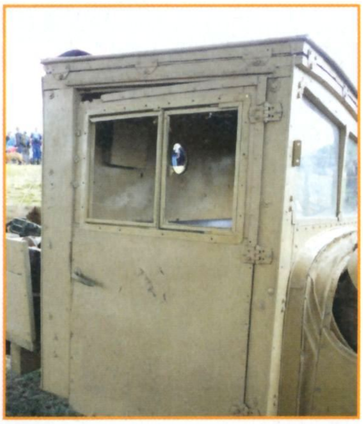
The Panther D awaits refuelling from drums and cans while parked at the end of the zig-zag trench position.



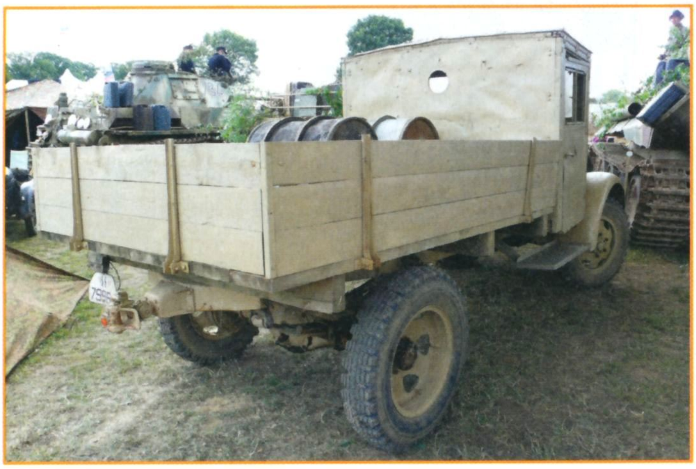
A Steyr truck with late war Einhatz cab a real rarity and interesting conversion possibility by combining Italeri cab and Tamiya radio car.



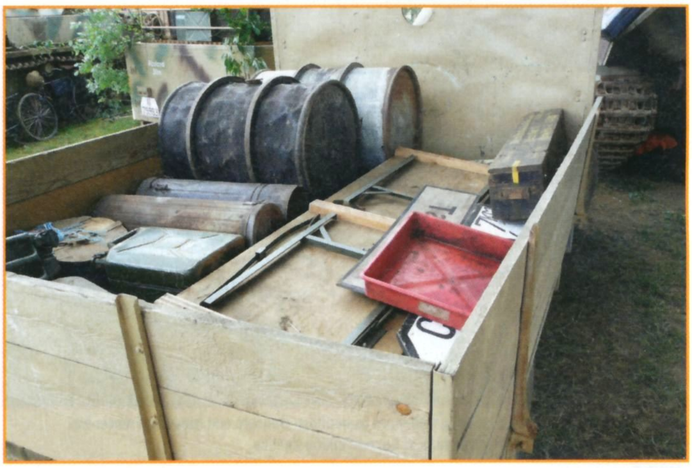
A useful detail shot of the Steyr engine and front hood.



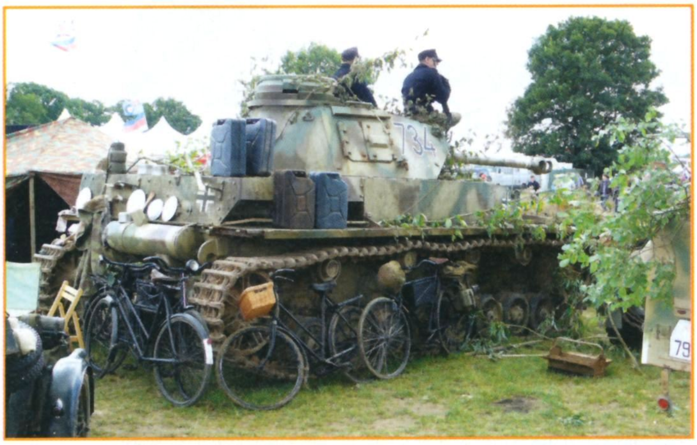
Detail shot of the late war Einheitz cab introduced to save valuable raw materials and to simplify production. A number of resin companies produce this Italeri still produce a cheap and cheerful version in their late Opel Blitz series.



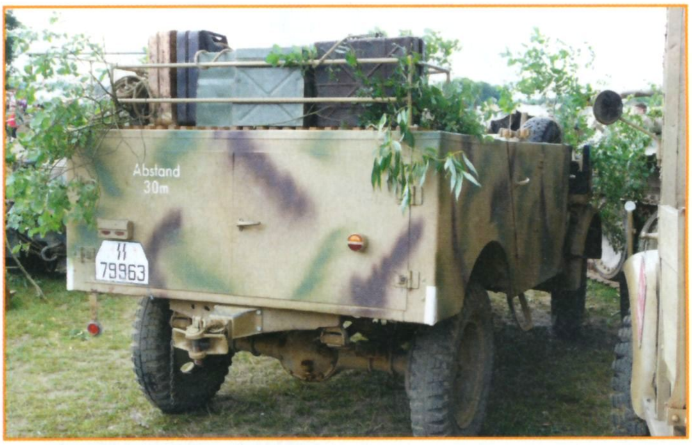
Rear three quarter view of the Steyr truck. This wooden flatbed looks as if it may well be a modern addition so referencing is necessary.



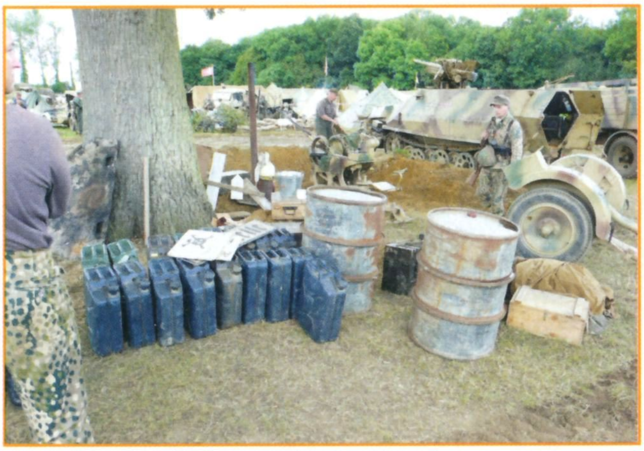
Detail shot of the contents of the flatbed. On the left are genuine fuel drums, jerry cans and ammunition boxes.



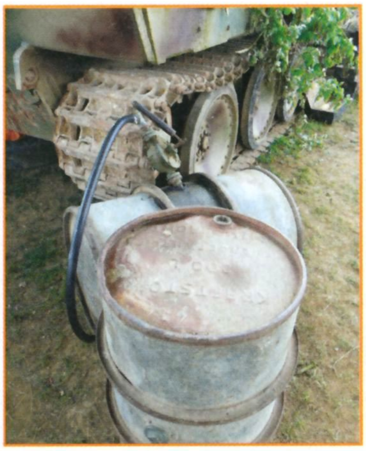
Rear three quarter shot of the Panzer IV displaying quite a collection of authentic German Army bicycles and perhaps a tad too many fuel cans for a tank on the front line.



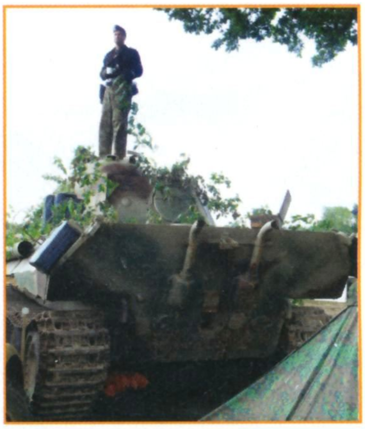
Rear shot of the standard Steyr staff car.



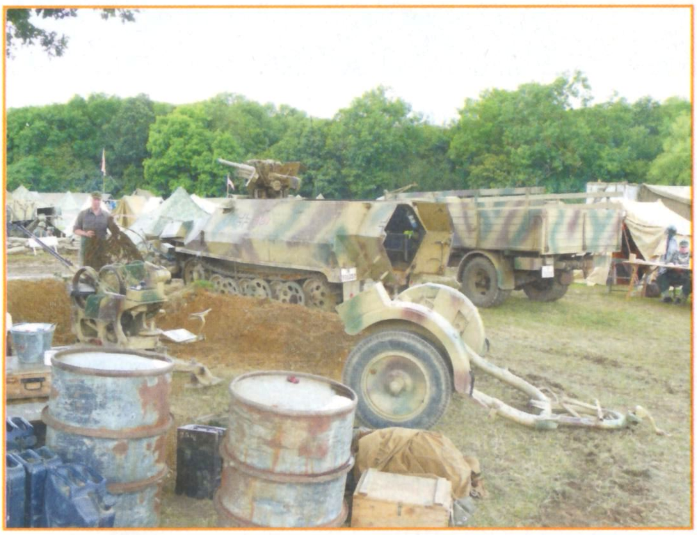
A good photo reference of German fuel cans and drums. Of note are the minefield danger signs.



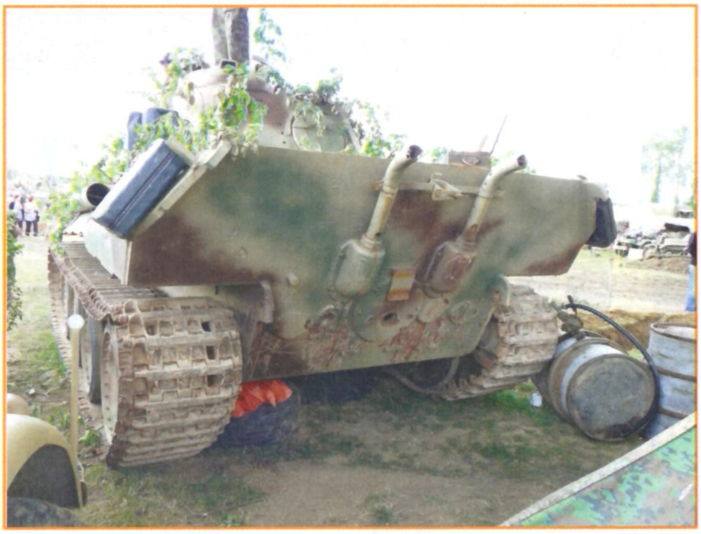
Detail shot of the fuel drums and fuel pump, large numbers of which would have been required to keep the Panzer divisions moving throughout Europe and the Eastern Front.



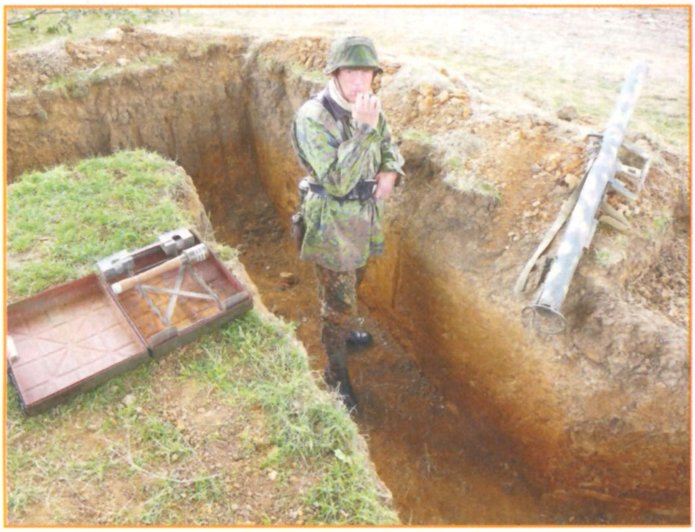
Rear shot of the mid-production Panther D, its rear hull plate stowage boxes missing as its Commander anxiously scans the skyline for Typhoons or Thunderbolts that have wreaked havoc on his division as they travelled towards the Normandy bridgehead.



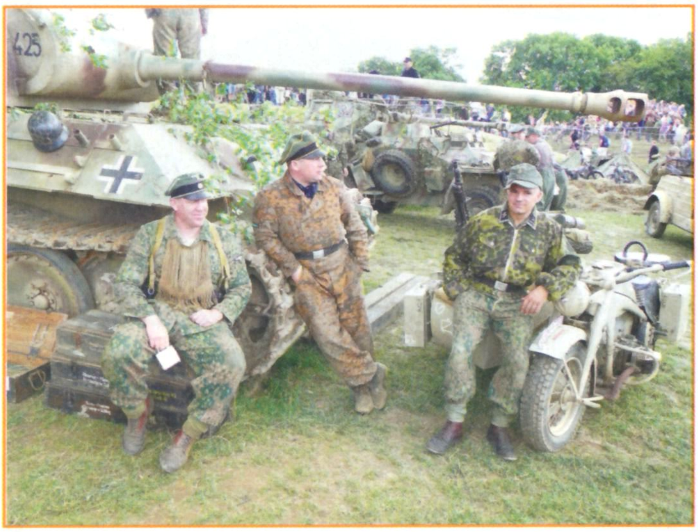
Shot of the tow trailer for a 2cm flak gun. In the background is the rear of the 2cm gun, an open Hanomag and an Opel Blitz.



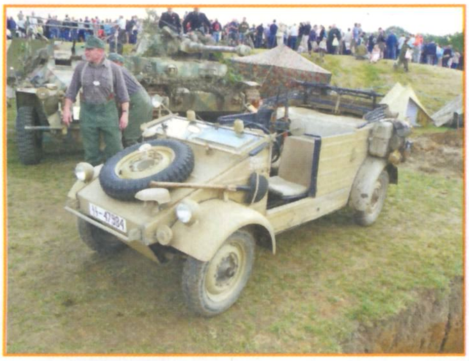
Detail shot of the exhaust outlets and rear of the Panther D, the tracks being a fine example of the subtle weathering required on such a vehicle.



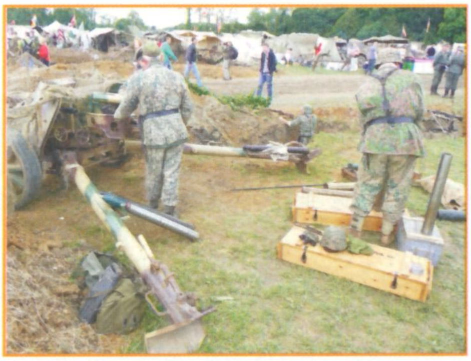
A nervous Panzer Grenadier awaits the inevitable onslaught in a well-dug trench, his Panzerschreck at the ready but his grenade box painfully low on munitions.



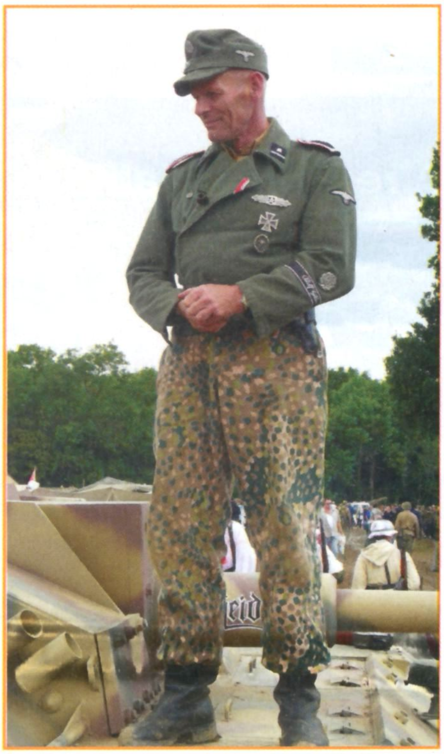
Definitely not the type of chaps you'd want to meet on the battlefield without your Lee Enfield or Grease gun. This trio are a fine example of troops at rest in their workaday uniforms. Of note is the sniper face cover on the man to the left.



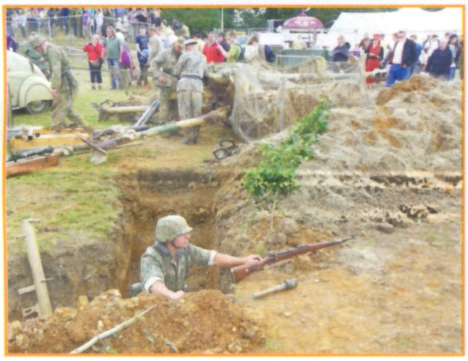
A fairly clean looking Kubelwagen as it undoubtedly would have appeared when newly delivered from the Volkswagen factory.



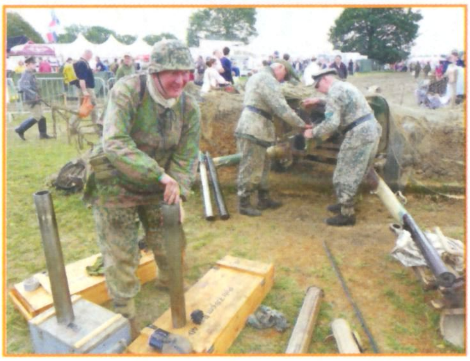
A Pak 40 crew ready their 75mm ammunition. This low-slung anti-tank gun has the advantage of being easily camouflaged against the landscape and not visible to its opponents until the last minute.



A gnarled veteran of combat on the Eastern Front this trooper wears his grey green tunic of the Stug III unit with his ambush camouflage trousers. His military decorations and driver's badge add some colour.



A well dug trench position, useful for WWII diorama builders. Of note is the depth required to properly protect the Panzer grenadiers.



This re-enactor seems to be dismantling a 75mm anti tank shell, probably for blank firing, however he is surrounded by the type of accoutrements that a Pak crew would require for their operation.

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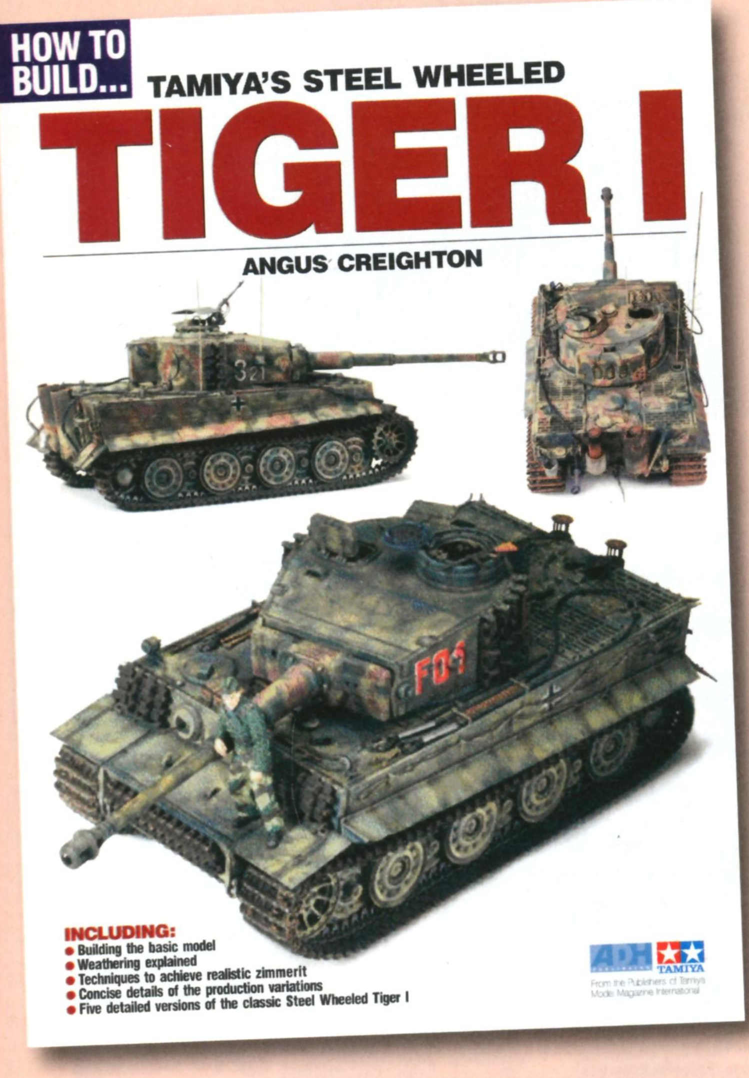
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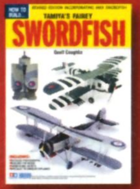

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July 1st
IPMS Staffordshire Moorlands Model Show.
IPMS Staffordshire Moorlands Model Club in association with 235 (City of Stoke on Trent) SQN A.T.C present their 3rd Model Show on Sunday 1 July 2012 to be held at the T.A Centre, Martin Leake House, Stonor Street (off Waterloo Road) Cobridge, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. ST6 3HJ
In support of Help For Heroes.
There will be a open competition for Seniors & Juniors, separate competition for Air Cadets.
Ample free parking, licensed bar, refreshments available courtesy of the T.A
Admission: Adults £2.50
Children & Concessions £1.50
Doors open 10.00am to 4.30pm.
For further information contact John Lingwood (Show Manager) 01782 721463
Club website http://smmc.moonfruit.com or follow link on the IPMS website.

July 7th-8th
FIGURE WORLD 2012
7th July 2012 SHOW
8th July PAINTATHON
The Great Hall, Oundle School, Oundle, PE8 4GH
The figure modelling show of the UK. If you are a figure modeller, don't miss out on the only event in the UK that has been put on to meet your needs.
For more information:
www.tbfigureworld.co.uk
www.tbforum.co.uk

July 14th
AMPS Central South Carolina Model Show.
The theme this year is 'Stranger in a Strange Land'
Our 2012 show and contest will be held on Saturday, 14 July from 9:00am until about 4:30 pm at the Gymnasium, 432 Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC.
This is the same great venue as last year. It's just on the northwest side of Columbia, SC and a couple of miles off of I-20.
ampscentralsouthcarolina.org

August 4th-5th
PRESENT ARMS 2012
The Military & Flying Machines team are delighted to announce the impressive Essex Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicle Association (MAFVA) annual model show "Present Arms" will this year take place during the Military & Flying Machines show at Damyns Hall on 4th & 5th August 2012.
Tickets are available on ticketmaster.co.uk or visit www.militaryandflyingmachines.org.uk.

August 19th
LETCHWORTH MODEL SHOWCASE 2012
Letchworth Scale model club is proud to announce MODEL SHOWCASE on
Sunday 19th August 2012
Our new venue is The Broadway Hotel Ballroom, Letchworth, SG6 3NZ
(Next door to Morrisons Supermarket) less than a minute from Letchworth station. Ample parking at the venue and at the town centre carpark less than 3-4 mins away
Doors Open 10.00.
Trade stands, visiting clubs and demos, 20 class competions.
Wargames demos/participation games. And if you get peckish there is everything from a sandwich to a 4 course meal, and a bar for the non drivers
For Further info please contact Bob Parker 01480 891710 or email robrenparker@sky.com, or Frank Henson. 01462674020

August 25th
The Edmonton International AFV Model Show, Open House & Military Vehicle Display.
The annual EIAFVMS will be held on August, 25th, 2012.The show will be held at HMCS Nonsuch, 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G-3E8, Canada.
Will have Military Artists: Ron Volstad and Robert Bailey,& vendors present.
Registraion Sat : 09:00 til 12:00, show goes to 6pm.
ArmyMotors will be present to display historical Military Vehicles, with re enactors as well. Present day Military vehicles and open house.
Contact for more info:
ANTHONY SEWARDS: teutonicknights@shaw.ca
Jon Baniak: jonbaniak@shaw.ca
Rod Dumouchel: krdumouc@telus.net
Website:www.aafvms.ca
Facebook: Edmonton International AFV Show
Mailing Address: EIAFVMS - Po Box 71071, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E-6J8 CANADA

September 8th-9th
QMHE 2012, BRISBANE AUSTRALIA
17th Anniversary 2012 Queensland Model Hobbies Expo and Queensland Scale Modelling Championships, will be held at the Brisbane Table Tennis Association Stadium, Green Terrace, Windsor (Downey Park), Brisbane, Queensland 4030, Australia from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday 08 September and 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 09 September 2012.
Visit www.qmhe.com or contact the Secretary; secretary@qmhe.com for more information.

October 6th
Abingdon IPMS Model Show.
Larkmead school, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1BB
Open from 10.00-16.00
Adult £3, con/OAP £2
There will be approximately 20 traders, 30 clubs stands, competition and Burger van.
For further information or booking details contact Simon Fisher email- simonfisher2008@btinternet.com or 07769 345271

October 13th
North Surrey Military Modelling Group's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 13th October 2012 from 10am- 4pm at:
The Thomas Wall Centre, 52 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4DP

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Book Reviews

WARPAINT
Colours and Markings of British Army Vehicles 1903-2003
Volume 4
SAMSON
46 PSI
3.2 BAR
REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

MMP BOOKS

WARPAINT VO. 4
COLOURS AND MARKINGS OF BRITISH ARMY VEHICLES 1903-2003

ISBN: 978-83-61421-24-5

MMP Books' rapidly expanding catalogue has traditionally been built upon aircraft, but their Green Series is dedicated to military subjects. Some of these have been real treasures, including the first three volumes of Dick Taylor's "Warpaint" series covering British Army camouflage and markings from 1903 to 2003.

The fourth and final volume in the Warpaint series has now been released. The book is A4 in size, and comprises 160 glossy pages between soft covers. The new Volume focuses on the broad subject of British Army colours and markings, ground and air recognition systems, vehicle names and miscellaneous markings.

The fact that Dick Taylor is both a serving British Army officer and a historian means that this series offers a unique insight into the previously spottily covered subject of British Army vehicle camouflage and markings. In this final instalment, the text is quite readable and is supported by scrap-view illustrations and attractive colour profiles. The highlight of the book in my opinion, however, is the large number of photographs (numbering in the hundreds), which are reproduced to a good size on the page, and supported by detailed and helpful captions.

The book is logically broken down into the following sections:

- Ground and Air Recognition Systems: this covers WWI, Between the Wars, WWII and Post War, right up to the Gulf War of 2003.
- Vehicle Names: once again, WWI, Between the Wars, WWII and Post War
- Miscellaneous Markings: Ambulances, Bridge Classifications, Vehicle Weight Classes, Convoy Plates, RTR Battalion Colours, National Insignia, Load and Maintenance Instructions, Tools, Fire Extinguishers, Legal and Safety; Fording and Wading Markings, Parades, Playing the Enemy, Regimental and Unit Markings.
- References and Bibliography

Interestingly, in his Introduction, Mr Taylor hints that there may be more to follow, although this is the final planned Volume for the series.

If you have the slightest interest in British Army vehicles anywhere between 1903 and 2003, Dick Taylor's Warpaint series casts a bright light on a previously shadowy subject. The four books together represent a valuable reference for modellers and military vehicle enthusiasts alike.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to MMP Books for the sample www.mmpbooks.biz

Brett Green

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SAM PUBLICATIONS

BUILD AND CONVERT AIRFIX MILITARY MODELS

ISBN: 978-1-906959-20-3

Many of our more mature readers will realise that the venerable Airfix magazine spawned a generation of modellers who attempted their first conversions based on the wonderful articles it contained on the conversion of Airfix kits. In that age, these conversions were the only way to get even mainstream WWII vehicles for your collection and, whilst a lot of these wouldn't satisfy the instant gratification brigade of today, they were good fun and a sound grounding in simple construction, conversion and fabrication techniques.

SAM Publications has released a superb title devoted to the subject of converting and modifying the large and diverse range of Airfix 1/76 / HO/ OO range of military subjects including their latest releases.

The book features 52 kits/conversions in 128 pages and is supported by colour photos showing the various stages of conversion and the finished products. The subjects are mainly World War Two but there is a large section devoted to Post War and a pair of WWI Conversions based on the venerable and aging Mk.I Male kit they released back in the 1960s.

The conversions range from simple modification to more complex rebuilds with fabricated parts that don't take themselves too seriously. These are all conversions within the reach of everyday modellers without the need to spend three times the cost of an expensive base kit. The text is easy to follow and quite concise but adequate in scope.

Unfortunately, unlike the original articles, these are not supported by the drawings like those from the 1960s and 1970s in Airfix Magazine. Regardless, these appear to be fun builds and to me look like a good way to shake of the modelling blues. They would be a great way to introduce newer modellers to the hobby at very little cost, given the bargain prices for a lot of Airfix Military Kits.

I thoroughly recommend this kit as either a guide to follow, a nostalgic look at modelling or a chance to pick up new skills. I see this as particularly appealing to wargamers looking to fill holes in their armies. It would make a great gift for the younger modeller starting out or the older modeller who isn't as serious as they used to be. Do yourself a favour and get a copy even if just for the nostalgia value. I doubt that you will be disappointed.

Recommended.

Thanks to SAM Publications for the sample www.sampublications.com

Al Bowie

SCALE MODEL HANDBOOK
FIGURE MODELLING 1
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MR BLACK PUBLICATIONS

SCALE MODEL HANDBOOK – FIGURE MODELLING 1

ISSN: 2241-1054

The first thing that captured my attention with this book was the stunning figure of a Scottish Warrior on the cover. This drew me in to what is a high quality publication full of inspirational photographs by some of Europe's award winning figure modellers.

This title is number one in a series of modelling guides to be presented in this style.

The book is packed with award winning models, but it also shows the reader the techniques involved in the creation of these masterpieces in clear and stunning colour photographs. One thing that appealed to me is that this is not like a lot of recent modelling handbooks that are devoted to techniques tied to a range of model finishing products excepting the underlying Pegaso figurines the book is written around.

The book's articles cover the breadth of figure modelling and gather samples representative of varying styles such as oils, acrylics or enamels. Additionally, it covers subjects such as sculpting, conversion and groundwork presentation amidst discussion on reference and other aspects of Figure Modelling

Subjects covered are diverse and not devoted to any one genre or scale:

1. Seleucid General 200mm Bust.
2. Roma Victor, Germania 180 AD 75mm Conversion
3. Hero Saxon warrior, 5th Century AD – 54mm painting Leather and Metal parts
4. "The Old Servant Tells his Tale" early 19th Century 54mm – Building a Vignette from Scratch
5. Comandant des Mousquetaires du Roi – 75mm – simulating different kinds of fabric & material
6. Micro Converting a Horse 54mm – Making a Unique Horse
7. Oberleutnant of the 1st Fallschirmjager Division 1/35th – Painting a World War two Figure
8. Maya Warrior Middle Ages XV Century 75mm – Painting realistic Flesh with oils
9. Highland Warrior 12th-23th Century 75mm – Combining Oil an acrylics

This book will be equally valuable to the novice just getting into figure modelling as it is to the master figure modeller as its scope encompasses many styles and techniques. It is not a one-stop shop on figure modelling, but it is highly inspirational and packed with useful information.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Mr Black Publications for the sample
www.mrblackpublications.com

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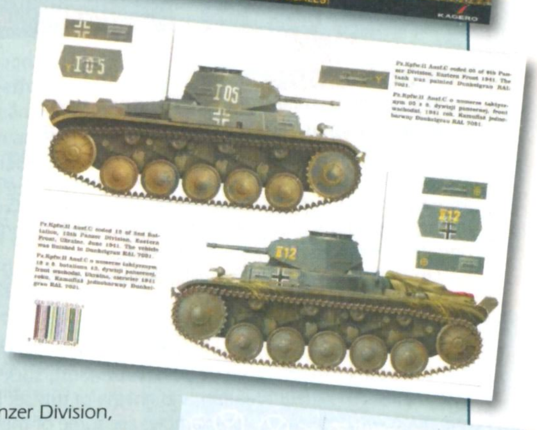
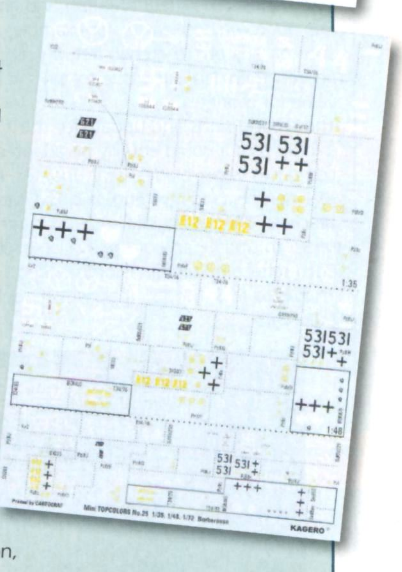
mini TOPCOLORS 25
Barbarossa 1941
18 PAINTING SCHEMES in 3 scales
FREE DECALS FOR ALL 18 PAINTING SCHEMES IN 3 SCALES!
KAGERO





Many armour modellers like to build their subjects around a theme.

Popular examples include the Battle of Kursk, operations in North West Europe, or the conflict in North Africa.

To save the enthusiast from purchasing a multitude of decal sheets and the accompanying reference material, Kagero has introduced the "Top Colours" series of books.

This particular package is the "mini" version and concentrates on the 1941 German invasion of the Soviet Union, code-named operation "Barbarossa". Unlike its larger sibling, text is kept to a minimum so those requiring an explanation of this campaign are best directed to other sources. But what we do get is a varied selection of 18 vehicle profiles and associated decals, from both sides of the conflict.

Included subjects are:

1. Kl. Pz.Bef.Wg. Sd.Kfz.265 of 11 Panzer Division, summer 1941.
2. 15 cm s.I.G.33 SFl auf Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf.B of 706th Self-propelled Heavy Infantry Gun Company, 10th Panzer Division.
3. 15 cm s.I.G.33 SFl auf Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf.B of 702th Self-propelled Heavy Infantry Gun Company, 1st Panzer Division, Russia, summer 1941.
4. STZ-built T-34/76 model 1941 with F-34 gun coded 4 of 21st Independent Tank Brigade, autumn 1941.
5. STZ-built T-34/76 model 1941 with F-34 gun. Painted in 4BO dark green with a white inscription "Beat the fascists" on the turret sides.
6. 1941-built heavy tank KV-2 captured by the German 7th Panzer Division in July 1943.
7. Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf. G coded "white 14" of 11th Panzer Division, Eastern Front 1941.
8. Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf. H "531 (black outlined in white)" of 6th Regiment, 3rd Panzer Division, Eastern Front 1941.
9. Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf. J, "white 1K" of 11th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, Ukraine, July 1941.
10. Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf. J, "white 632" of 18th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, September, 1941.
11. Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf. J, "white 5 (621)" of 10th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, late autumn, 1941.
12. Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf. J, "white 7 (731)" of 10th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, summer, 1941.
13. Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf. D, "white 33" of 11th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, Ukraine, July 1941.
14. Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf. E, "white 11" of 11th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, Ukraine, July 1941.
15. Sd.Kfz. 250/3, of 11th Panzer Division, Panzer Group 1, Eastern Front, September 1941.
16. Sd.Kfz. 221 of SS Division "Wiking", Eastern Front, summer, 1941.
17. Pz.Kpfw.II Ausf. C, "white I05" of 8th Panzer Division, Eastern Front, 1941.
18. Pz.Kpfw.II Ausf. C, "yellow II12" of 13rd Panzer Division, Eastern Front, Ukraine, June 1941.

Each vehicle is the subject of some beautiful artwork. In most cases, one vehicle per page is displayed and is backed up by a cropped period photograph.

The decal sheet contains markings in 3 different sizes and represents each of the popular scales... 1:72, 1:48 and 1:35. Cartograf are responsible for these, and it's quickly obvious that their high standards have been maintained. Everything on the A4 sized sheet is in perfect register and the carrier film around each item has been kept to a minimum.

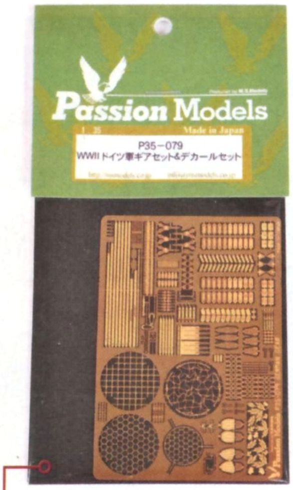
If you want to model the armoured vehicles of a single campaign then this is a series worth considering.

It allows the modeller to build a variety of tanks from one of the most defining periods of WWII and is a great way to start building a collection based on a theme.

Recommended.

Available online from Kagero's website www.kagero.pl

Rob Baumgartner


Passion Models
1:35
Made in Japan
P35-079

Passion Models
1:35
Made in Japan
P35-080

PASSION MODELS

ITEM NO. P35-079 - WWII GERMAN GEAR SET
ITEM NO. P35-080 - WWII WILLYS JEEP UPDATE

Passion Models has released two new photo etch sets. The first is a photo-etched up date for 1:35 scale German figures and includes items like gun slings for the KAR 98, MP 40, SIG 44 and MG 34 and 42, updates for ammo and grenade cases, gas mask cylinders, Panzerfaust updates and even handles for land mines.

Updates for German uniforms include shoulder boards, chicken wire for helmets (with a beautiful set of photo etch leaves), boot soles (with hob nails), shoelaces and webbing updates.

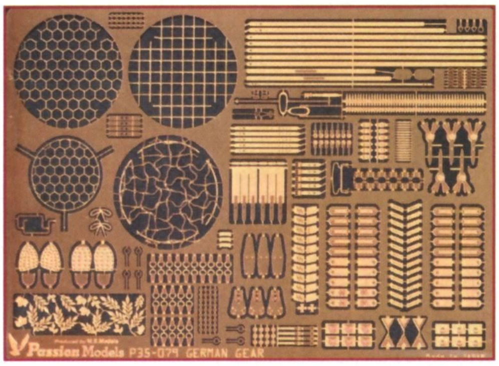
The real bonus with this set is a quite large waterslide decal sheet for items like the instructions printed on Panzerfaust, stick grenades and land mines. The sheer breadth, and finesse of this set is outstanding, The photo-etched leaves, for example, are some of the best that I have seen on any photo-etched fret. If you get one update for German figures, then this is the one to have. It is not only accurate but good value for money.

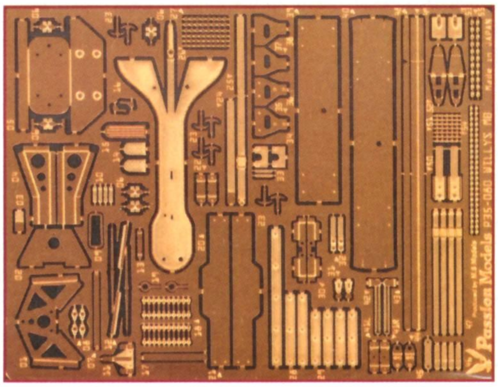
The second set is and update for the 1:35 scale Tamiya Jeep kit, but it looks as if it could equally be adapted for the newer Dragon kit. It comprises wiper blades, seat updates, headlight guards, front and rear bumper updates, engine hood latches and various tool stowage brackets, The set is quite small, but in reality, it is all you would ever need to update any of the available kits.

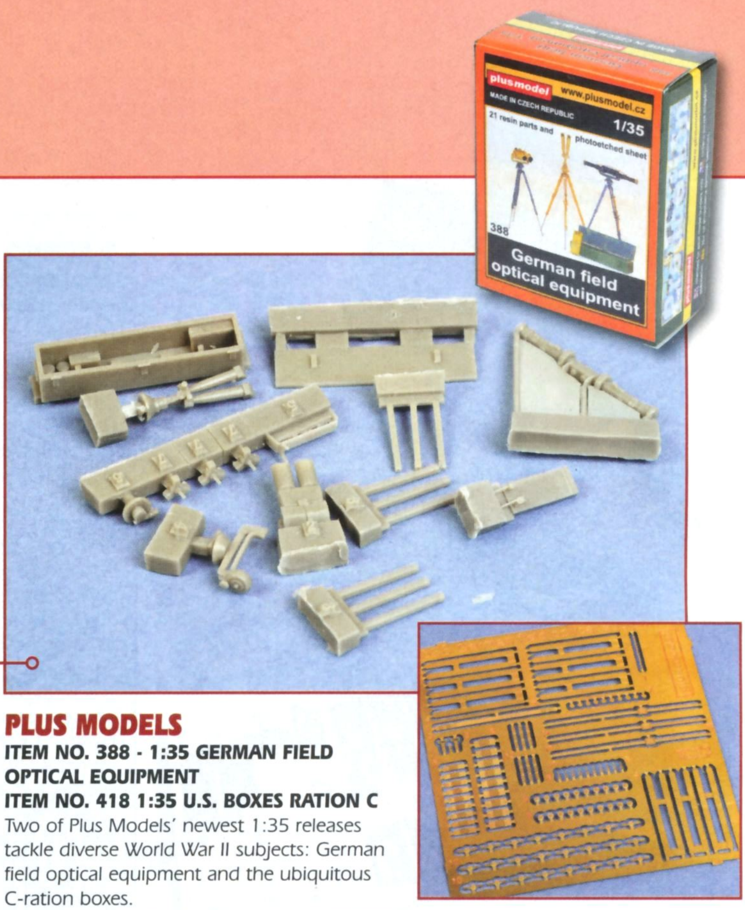
Both sets come highly recommended.

Thanks to M.S. Models (http://msmodels.co.jp/) for the review samples.

Luke Pitt


Passion Models P35-079 GERMAN GEAR


Passion Models P35-080 WILLYS MB


plusmodel
www.plusmodel.cz
MADE IN CZECH REPUBLIC
1/35
21 resin parts and photoetched sheet
388
German field optical equipment

PLUS MODELS

ITEM NO. 388 - 1:35 GERMAN FIELD OPTICAL EQUIPMENT
ITEM NO. 418 1:35 U.S. BOXES RATION C

Two of Plus Models' newest 1:35 releases tackle diverse World War II subjects: German field optical equipment and the ubiquitous C-ration boxes.

The German field optical equipment set contains resin and photoetched pieces for four different optical devices along with three folding tripods, along with a storage case for one of the rangefinder. The four devices are: an SF14i artillery scissors periscope, an Em-1m-R-36 1 metre stereoscopic rangefinder, a set of 10x80 Flakfernrohr flak spotting binoculars, and a simple trench periscope. The resin casting is extremely fine, as one would expect from Plus Models, and the photo-etch is well detailed yet fairly robust. Detail is, for the most part, very good, although the illuminator rigs and battery packs commonly supplied with the scissors periscope and the spotting binoculars are not included, nor is the top aiming sight often seen on top of the spotting binoculars. On the other hand, the combination metal and wooden tripods are very highly detailed, with resin for the wooden leg parts and base plus photoetched parts for the upper legs and carrying straps and wire (not included) to be used for the lower legs. These tripods can be assembled open or folded and will be very accurate yet delicate when completed. The storage case for the rangefinder can be built open or closed and includes all of the appropriate internal bracing. The instructions, while not elaborate, do clearly explain what needs to be done to assemble these items.

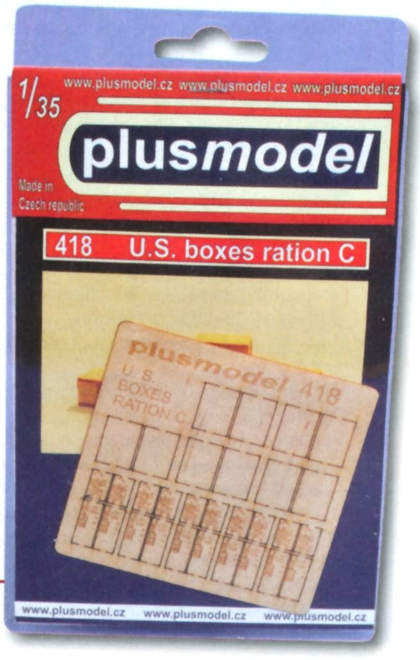
The C-Ration boxes are provided on extremely thin laser-cut wood sheet, with printing on the sides and ends of the boxes burnt into the wood; enough parts are included to make six boxes. The dimensions of the boxes scale out perfectly according to the dimensions on Tim Streeter's C-Rations page (http://www.usarmymodels.com/ARTICLES/Rations/crations.html). The printing on the boxes is remarkably fine and perfectly legible under magnification, and also matches some examples seen. The big challenge is assembling these boxes. Since the wood is so thin, there are no mating surfaces, so some sort of internal bracing will have to be added to hold them together. On the other hand, the wood's thickness would be very convincing in scale. No instructions are supplied, but how hard is it to build a box?

Both of these sets are highly recommended and will provide nice accessories to add interest to dioramas.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Plus Models for the review samples www.plusmodel.cz

Scott Taylor


1/35
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15 CWT truck with Breda 20/65
No 6505
1:35
ITALERI

Andy King examines Italeri's new combination of the venerable 1:35 scale Peerless Max 15cwt truck and the much more recent Breda anti-aircraft gun.

HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL

The 15cwt (1 cwt = 1 hundred weight) truck was one of many British designs that were built in Canada under the CMP banner (Canadian Military Pattern) by either Ford or General Motors. This particular vehicle was produced by the Chevrolet division of General Motors of Canada Ltd from 1941 onward and featured the distinctive forward tilting cab. It was a 4x2 powered by a 3.5 Litre straight six overhead valve 85bhp engine and could manage around 40mph (64kph). The cab design is the 'Number 13' or third type as Ford and Chevrolet vehicles shared a common type before evolving. The body is of a GS or General Service type but many other types were fitted to the chassis including water tankers, fuel tankers, mobile dentist, vehicle recovery etc.

The vehicle could be found on virtually every front from North Africa to Burma and was also used by the Russian army via the Lend-Lease agreement. After the war it was used by various other armies as well as finding their way into civilian life.

This kit has been around for many years under various labels and originally moulded by Peerless Max way back in the late 1970s, however it was always a great model and given a new lease of life by Italeri in the 1990s. This is the latest outing featuring an Italian Breda 20/65 20mm AA gun. In the box you have six sprues moulded in grey styrene, one sprue of clear parts and a decal sheet.

The truck, as you would expect for a kit of this age, has some flash present as well as moulding pin marks but to be fair it's not that bad at all. Pin marks are visible on a couple of the tyres too but they are raised and easier to deal with than recessed ones and thankfully there are none whatsoever on the cargo bed, something that was all too common on these old kits.

The chassis is a one-piece affair and well detailed but no engine is included which you wouldn't see anyway unless you are opening the bonnet. The cab is pretty bare too as befits the type of truck with a very rudimentary instrument panel, two seats and rather chunky handbrake and gear lever. Again, there are a couple of pin marks at the back of the cab and underneath the mudguards to fill in. The clear parts for the windows are a bit on the thick side and would benefit from being replaced with clear styrene sheet.

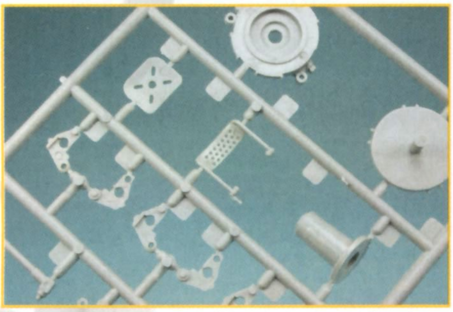
The rear cargo bed is good although the raised wood effect is typical of the time and can be improved by rubbing down and rescribing. A tarpaulin is included and with a bit of tweaking and careful painting will look pretty good; or you could leave it off and just have the tilt frame showing. As stated before, the tyres on my sample have a couple of pin marks showing but they are raised and easy enough to remove. More importantly, they don't obliterate the detail on the sidewalls. Just remember that the tread pattern needs to be offset as there are no locating pins to help with the alignment of the tyre halves.

The Breda 20/65 is from Italeri's Sahariana armoured car kit and as it is from a later era the moulding quality is better although it still has small mould pin marks in some awkward places, more so than the truck. There is a choice of gun sights and you can model it in either a firing or travel mode. Only one ammo box is provided with a single magazine to fit to the side of the gun so you will have to source more from somewhere else should you wish to fill up the back of the truck.

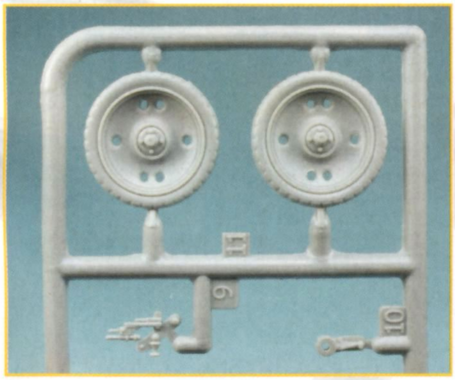
There are four colour options to choose from; two British Army, one Australian Army from the North African campaign, and a Canadian Army vehicle from 1944. The colours quoted are from the Italeri's own paint range and Testor's Model Master.

This is an old kit but one of the good ones and with some TLC it does make up into a nice little model. Hopefully we'll see some more Allied trucks in 1:35 appearing as the list is as long as your arm to choose from.

Recommended. ■

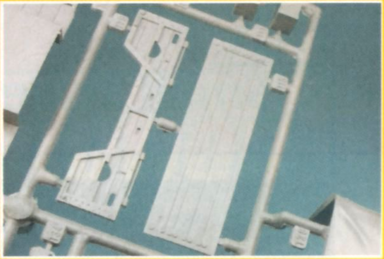


Mouding quality is good and detail is petite but there are lots of ejector pins to deal with.



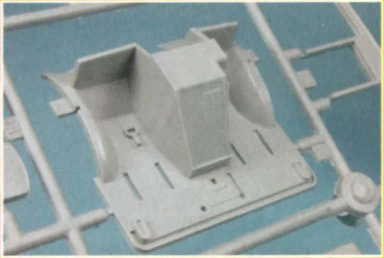
The gun carriage wheels and one of the gunsights. These look great.

Thanks to Italeri for the sample www.italeri.com

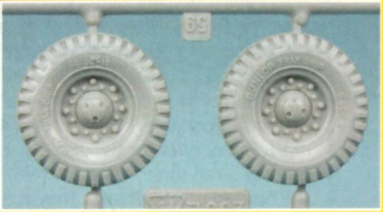


The mouldings of the truck are remarkably good considering they originate from the 1970s.

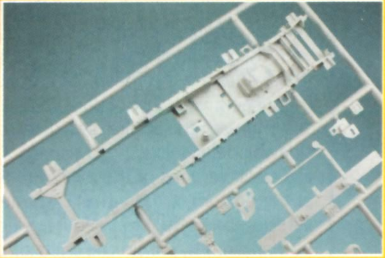
The optional tilt supplied with the kit.



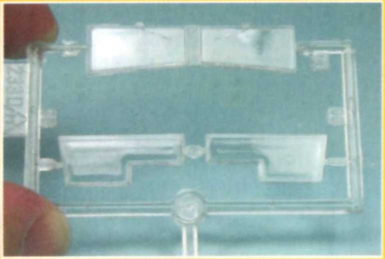
Basic interior detail is included for the truck.



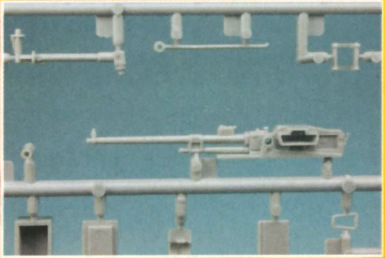
The truck's wheels are very nice, although there is that tricky raised ejector pin!



The chassis includes a partially-moulded bottom of the engine block.



The truck's clear parts.



The Breda gun barrel.

DEF MODEL

1:72 SCALE

DW72001 - U.S. M1126 STRYKER WHEEL SET – SAGGED
DW72002 - U.S. M977 HEMTT XL WHEEL SET – SAGGED
DW72003 - U.S. M977 HEMTT XZL WHEEL SET – SAGGED

DEF Model is a relatively new company from Korea that has released some very nice 1:35 resin conversions and wheel sets, some of which have already been reviewed here on HyperScale. These three sets mark their first foray into 1:72, providing replacement tyres for two recent Academy kits, the HEMTT and the M1126 Stryker. Casting on all three sets is flawless, with only a small pour stub to be removed from the bottom of the wheels. They are a straight replacement for the kit wheels once this is done. There are no mould lines, casting bubbles or other imperfections at all on any of the tyres in these three sets. The spare wheels need the hubs and boltholes cleaned out before they are ready to be attached, but this will be simple. Since the hubs on each tyre station is not the same, numbers are helpfully cast into the pour stubs to aid with the positioning of the wheels on the vehicle, with #1 at the front through #4 at the rear (and 0 the spare). As a bonus, a set of pre-cut adhesive masks is included for the wheels, with instructions for their use – a nice touch.

Starting with the Stryker set, detail on the wheels is remarkable, with excellent sidewall detail including "Michelin X" and other data. In fact, these tyres look much like small versions of the AFV Club Stryker tyres, which I consider excellent. The bulge at the bottom of the wheel is subtle but visible, and looks like what I've seen on real vehicles. Likewise, the tread is well-done and matches the real deal. Detail on the hub and rim is, within the limits of the scale, superb. All eight of the wheels have the step ring (a metal rim attached to the inner set of bolts) moulded on, although most serving vehicles have these rings on the front wheels only. Some careful knife work should be able to remove the rings from the other wheels, however.

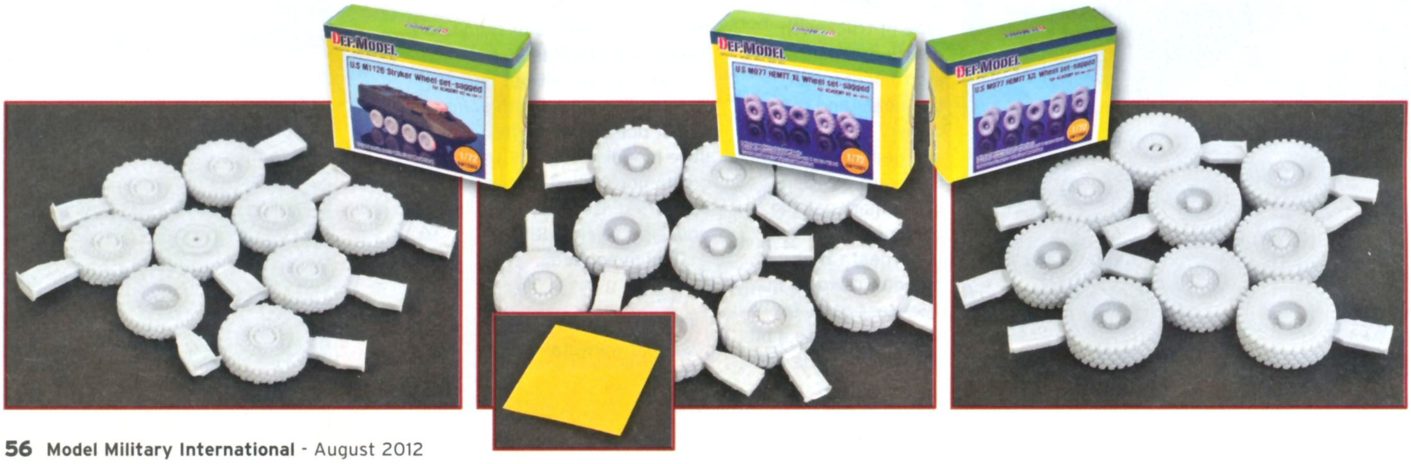
The two sets of HEMTT wheels are just as well done, with the distinctive treads and sidewall details of each type of tyre rendered with excellent detail. All of these sets are highly recommended – these will really enhance the Academy Strykers and HEMTTs, and the quality is impeccable.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to DEF Model for the review samples http://defmodel.com/

Scott Taylor

1. The bulge where this Michelin XML meets the ground is subtle, but visible. The tread, which is accurately reproduced in the DEF Model wheels, can be clearly seen here as well. Note that these wheels are not fitted with the step ring.
2: The front left tyre on this M1126 has the step ring fitted. The sidewall details can also be clearly seen.
3: These Michelin XZLs are on an M1977 HEMTT Common Bridge Transporter (CBT). The DEF Model wheels match the details shown as well as can be expected in 1:72 scale – actually, much better than I would have expected!


DEF MODEL
U.S M1126 Stryker Wheel set-sagged
DEF MODEL
U.S M977 HEMTT XL Wheel set-sagged
DEF MODEL
U.S M977 HEMTT XZL Wheel set-sagged

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BUILD IT NOW, NOT LATER!

During my travels, I have observed how modellers often say, "Yeah, that one will be a good for my retirement", or "I just don't have time for it right now, maybe later".

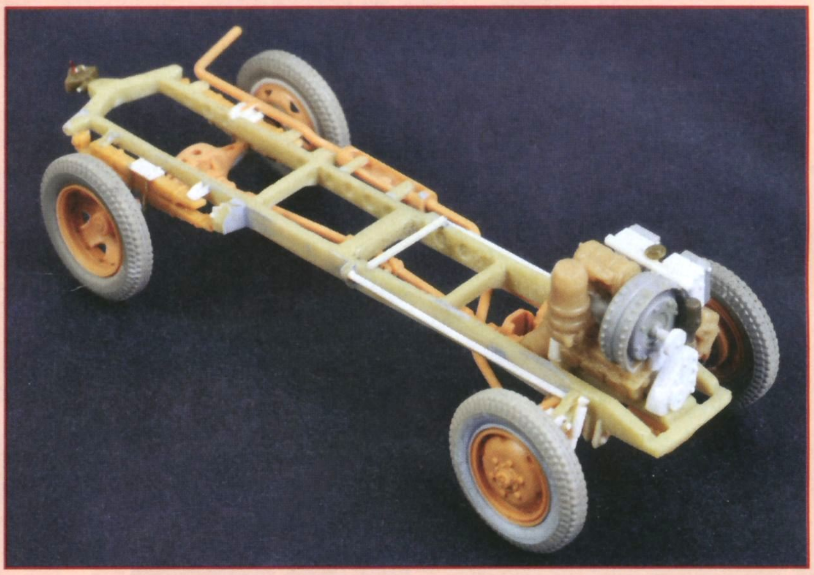
Guys, let me remind you all of an inconvenient truth. When you reach 30, it's all downhill! Your eyesight will fade, your muscle mass decrease and generally without a lot a really hard physical effort, your body will degenerate (kinda like those old rubber tyres you used to get in kits from the 1980's).

I myself now have to use an Optivisor, which I hate, as I used to have such great eyes, but that's just the way it is.

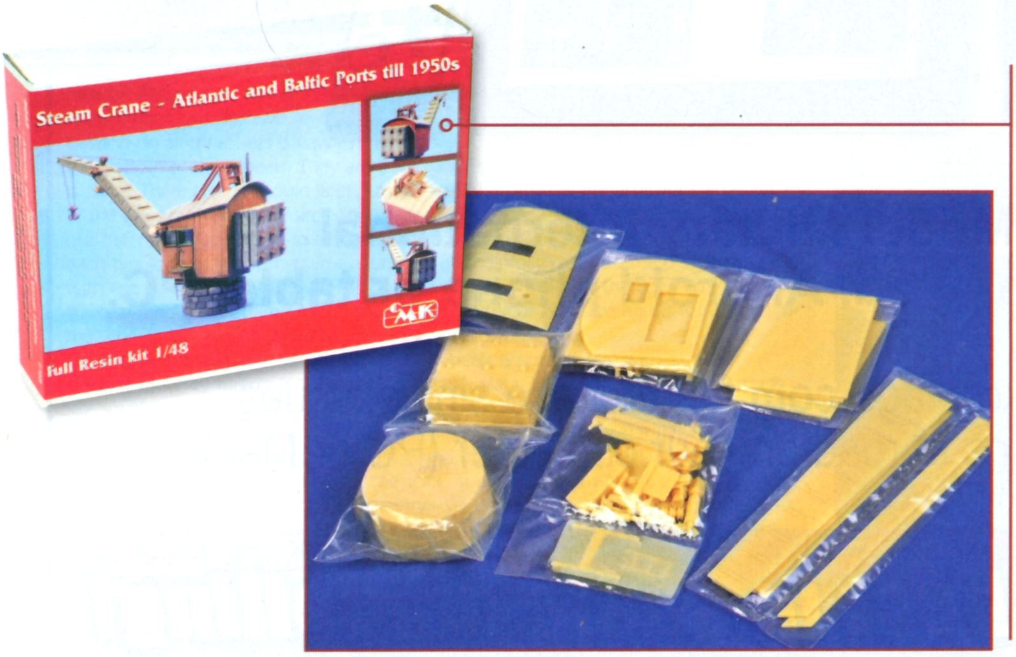
The other factor that creeps in is motivation. When I was younger I had no trouble starting and indeed finishing quite complex kits in a matter of days or weeks. Now it is more like months. I must confess, however, that I am in a bit of a slump at the moment.

The one thing that has kept me going, however, is breaking down my modelling sequences into smaller lot sizes. I call it "compartmentalisation". What I do is work on one area of a model and get that right and then move on to the next. In the end, I will have several really detailed sub-assemblies that can be painted and assembled onto the finished model. 1:48 scale is perfect for this concept as it is smaller and, by its very nature, less complex.

Anyhow, I'm off for a run now. I'm trying to keep the aging Leprechauns from catching me.



Until next time Luke Pitt



CMK

1:48 SCALE STEAM CRANE • ITEM NO. 8042

This Harbour Steam Crane was used in various forms and applications on Atlantic and Baltic ports until the late 1950s. This recent kit from CMK is a real beauty and come with 50 very well cast and in some cases quite large resin parts. The subtle wood texture on the crew cab is noteworthy as it is very fine and very well done. All of the larger castings have no "pour" blocks to cut off, which is a bonus. No interior cab detail is present, but in all honesty, from my brief research on the subject, there were endless configurations on the interiors of these cranes and not much is seen from the outside at any rate.

If you are looking for something different to build or need to add that special something for your next harbour side diorama, then this piece is a must. The quality and ease of assembly are the key features of this kit.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to CMK for the review sample.

Luke Pitt

BATTALION BITS

1:48 SCALE

REPLACEMENT WHEELS FOR THE BANDAI AUSTIN K 5 TRUCK

ITEM NO. BT13

The old 1:48 Bandai model of the English K5 truck is one of the most sought after kits no longer in production. Some do appear on E-bay and swap meets from time to time and is a very worthwhile purchase if you can nab one.

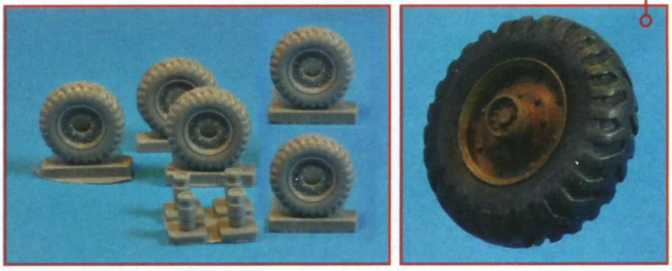
The only real flaw on the old Bandai kit was the wheels, or to be more precise the tyres themselves, as they bore no relationship whatsoever to any tyre that I have ever seen.

If you intend to build the kit (as opposed to collect it) then this new set of replacement wheels from Battalion Bits is a "must have". The wheels themselves are finely cast and have a directional pattern often seen on English vehicles after the D-day landings.

Recommended.

Thanks to Battalion Bits for the review sample. They may be purchase directly on the following e-mail info@belcherbits.com

Luke Pitt



Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

2240
Sherman Dozer Set
1:48 Scale
Verlinden Productions

VERLINDEN
1:48 SCALE
SHERMAN DOZER SET
ITEM NO. 2240

The contents of this kit are 16 resin pieces, a medium sized sheet of photo etch and some copper wire and plastic tubing. The instruction sheet sets out the key resin part numbers as well as the five construction steps. By the look of things, Verlinden has simply scaled down their 1:35 offering of the same subject.

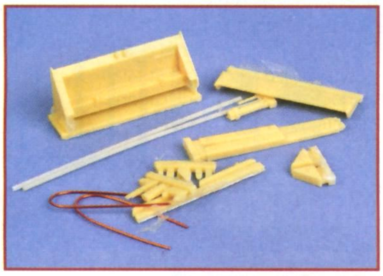
The resin parts are very nicely produced with the upper and lower dozer blade parts exhibiting some very finely cast details. As usual, you will need to be very careful when removing the resin casting plugs from all of these parts and in particular the smaller resin items.

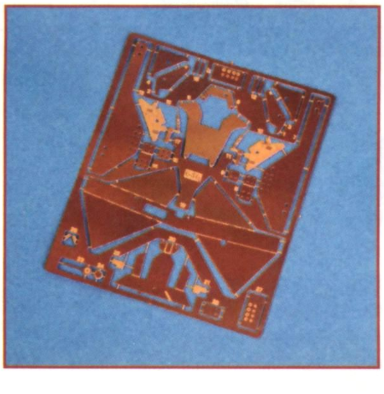
The photo-etch and additional copper wire and plastic tube will add that extra detail to the main blade in so far as the fitting brackets, protective frames and hydraulics bits and pieces go. You will need to pay careful attention to the instructions and test fit as you go to ensure everything is where it should be and some additional references may also be helpful in this case

This is another well produced kit that will add a bit of a different feel to your 1:48 scale Sherman and will probably fit some of the other 1:48 scale Allied tanks with a bit of work it that's what you want to do. Recommended.

Thanks to Verlinden for the review sample www.verlindenonline.com

Ross Ferro





MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Masanori Sato (Toku)

Masanori Sato is a businessman living in Yokohama city, Japan. He is 59 years of age and first began modelling when he was 10 years old. Like most of us, he has drifted in and out of the hobby but began modelling 1:48 scale armour around 6 years ago. He has told me that the most compelling reason for his interest in 1:48 scale was its size and simplicity of assembly. He also likes the relative ease with which most 1:48 kits can be converted. Being a collector of sorts, he likes the smaller foot print that 1:48 scale offers for his collection. It is a real pleasure to have Toku with us this month and it is my hope he will be the first of many more Japanese 1:48 modellers who we will meet in this column.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Welcome Toku. What is the most 1:48 influential scale model you have seen in print and why?

Toku: ***This is a difficult question Luke! For me, the two modellers that stand out in western publications are Luciano Rodriguez and Pat Johnston. Both of these gentlemen have introduced their techniques and painting styles that appeal to almost everybody. Each is different and bring their own individual personality to their builds. In my own work I have tried to adopt their methods (with varying degrees of success). Like you, I believe that we should develop our own so-called "style" by modification, adaption of others and in some cases developing my own techniques.***

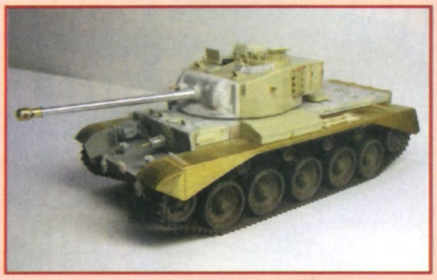
Luke: Tell me Toku, if you had to pick one plastic kit that should be made in 1:48 what would that be?

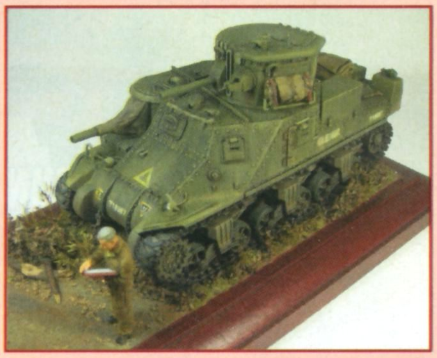
Toku: ***Without question a Churchill Tank. I am a great fan of English armour it, has a "look" that appeals to me.***

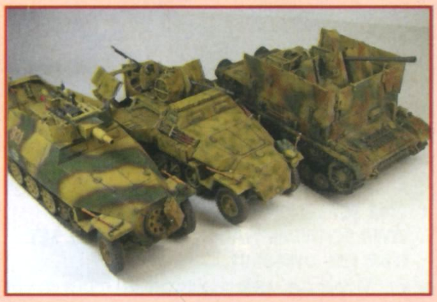
Luke: So I take it you have the Fighting 48th! Comet, Bronco Staghound and will buy the Tamiya Matilda?

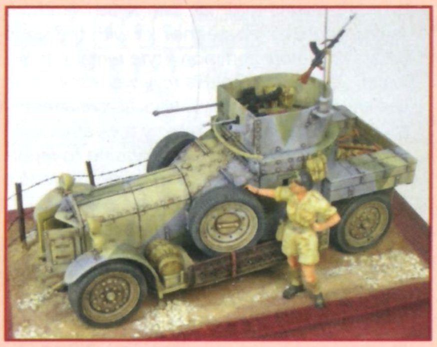
Toku: ***Luke, the Fighting 48th! Comet is a masterpiece! I am almost afraid to build it! It is so good! I will however complete this. The Bronco Staghound is also one of the finest plastic kits I have seen and is in my collection. The Tamiya Matilda was for me, a most welcome surprise and will be bought as soon as it is released.***

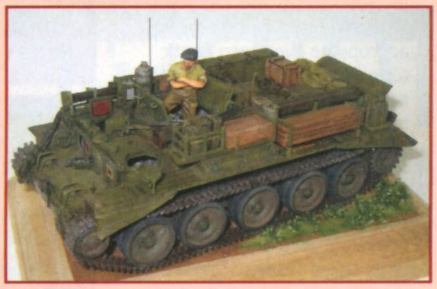
Luke: Thanks for the interview Toku; I am very impressed with your builds and feel others may now be emulating your style, I know, I will try.

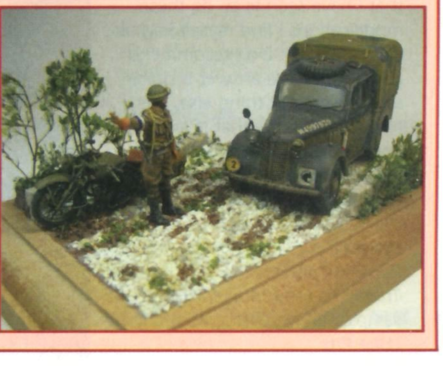






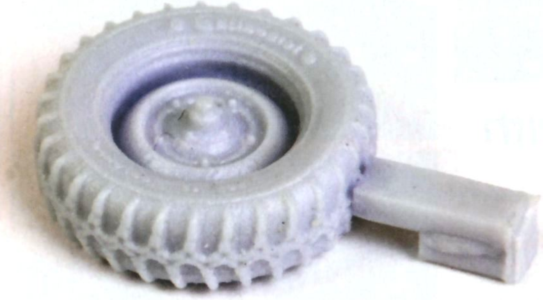






48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

DEF.MODEL
WWII Schwimmwagen wide wheel set-sagged
1/48
DW48001
For TAMIYA Kit



DEF.MODEL

1:48 SCALE

WWII SCHWIMMWAGEN WIDE WHEEL SET

ITEM NO. DW48001

Def.Model has ventured into 1:48 replacement wheels and their first release is for the Tamiya Schwimmwagen. Why Tamiya chose to release their kit with the standard - although undeniably more common - tyre remains a mystery. The wider off road tyre (in this reviewer's mind) has always looked cooler. Up until this point, all available aftermarket sets in this scale have failed to convey the correct tyre profile and distinctive tread pattern. It is pleasing to report then that this new set has to all intents and purposes done this correctly.

The inner rim, however, is a tad too thin, which results in the central hub having an almost floating appearance. This in turn affects the hub depth.

A simple solution is to cut out the central hub and sand up to the first step of the rim. An appropriate evergreen plastic tube can then be inserted and the Tamiya hub placed behind the newly inserted inner rim.

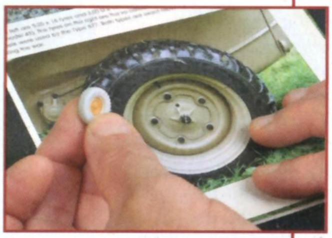
This solution is not for everyone but is more accurate and gives the wheels themselves a far more accurate appearance.

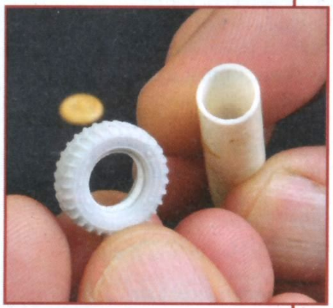
I have included a series of photos to illustrate the fix. Given the fact that I have seen fit to do these modifications I find myself in a bit of a quandary. Do I recommend this or not? The answer is quite simply. Yes! If nothing else, the all-important tyre that is almost impossible to scratch build (and believe me I've tried) is outstanding and even includes the 'Continental' logo on the sidewall.

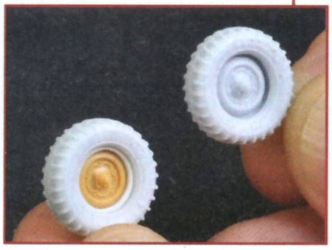
Recommended.

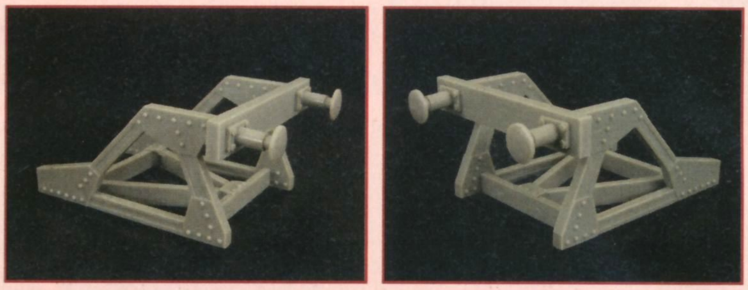
Thanks to Def.Model for the samples www.defmodel.com

Luke Pitt









HAULER

1:48 SCALE

RAILWAY END TRACK RAILWAY BUFFER

ITEM NO. HLF 48021

Hauler continues to release really interesting diorama accessories and this one is no exception. Comprising six very well cast pieces, it makes up into a very convincing railway end track buffer. A small but very worthwhile diorama accessory.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the review sample www.hauler.cz

Luke Pitt

Polish-Bolshevik War 1920
Polish Armoured Car crewman
1/48
48F25
Żołnierz z załogi samochodu pancernego
THE TWENTIES
Civilian automobile driver or aeroplane pilot
1/48
48F54
Kierowca samochodu Pilot samolotu

TORO MODEL

1:48 SCALE

CIVILIAN AUTOMOBILE DRIVER. ITEM NO. 48F54

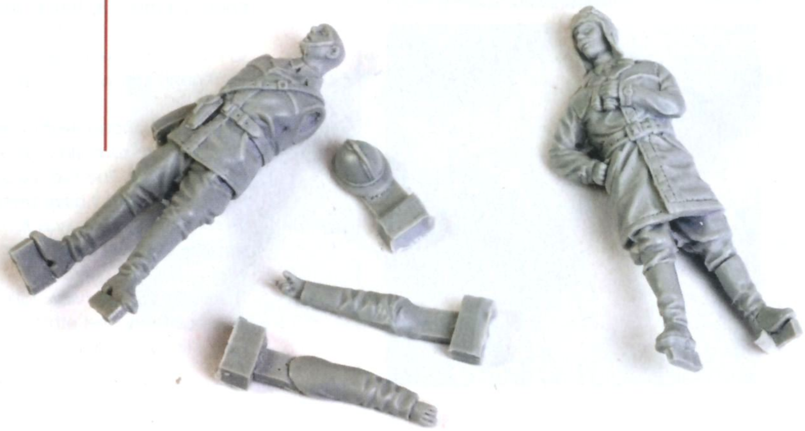
POLISH ARMOURED CAR CREWMAN. ITEM NO. 48F25

Both of these new figures from Toro model are very well cast with the automobile driver presented as one piece and the Polish armoured car crewman being broken down into four pieces (torso, 2 arms and a helmet). The level of detail is first class and they both exhibit the correct height and bulk. The fabric folds are handled well as is the all-important facial details. Both of these figures could be easy adapted to either a Russian or German of the World War II period with small modifications. Both figures can be purchased directly from Toro Model on toro-model@toro-model.com.pl

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Toro Model for the review samples.

Luke Pitt



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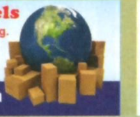

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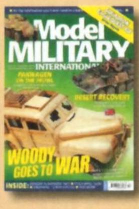

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- Trumpeter I:35 scale LAVR
- Dragon I:35 Sd.Kfz. 25I/22 Ausf. D.
- Squadron's EagleQuest XIX
- AMT's I:25 Ford Station Wagon conversion
- Badger Velocity Airbrush bench test
- GHQ I:285 scale Diorama
- Small-scale Cherbourg diorama Pt.4

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- Accurate Armour I:35 T-28
- Revell I:35 Mercedes Panhard VPS Special Forces conversion
- TANKFEST 2010 show report
- ICM I:35 Studebaker
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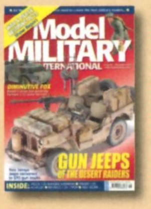

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- Swash Design I:35 scale conversions of Tamiya's Jeeps
- War and Peace 2010 report
- Tasca I:35 M4A3E8 Easy Eight
- T-84 OPLOT project
- Tamiya I:35 Panther Diorama
- Revell I:72 Fennek
- Bronco I:35 I7pdr
- Hobby Boss I:35 T26E4 by Al Bowie

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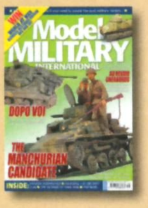

Issue 56
- Fine Molds I:35 Type 94 Japanese Tank
- Tamiya I:35 BT-7
- GreatWall Hobby I:35 sWS with Flak 43
- Trumpeter I:35 Panzerjager Triebwagen
- Dragon I:35 Jagdpanther
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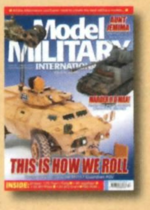

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- Trumpeter I:35 MII7 Guardian
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- Academy I:35 M3 Grant
- Verlinden I:35 TIE3 mine roller conversion
- Dragon I:35 Tiger I
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SPIRIT OF 76

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- Tasca I:35 M4A3(76)W
- ScaleModelworld 2010 Report
- Alan's heavily rebuilt I:35 Marder II Ausf. D
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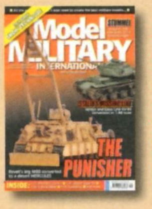

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- Italeri I:35 M24 Chaffee
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- Italeri I:35 Biber U-Boat
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- Snow Technique Tech Guide
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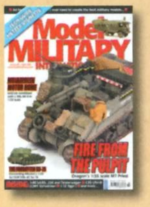

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- MiniArt Su-76M conversion
- I:35 motorhome conversion
- Hetzer Vignette Tech Guide Pt.I
- Italeri I:35 GMC Truck and Panzer 38(t)
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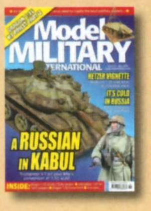

Issue 61
- I:35 scale T-62MI conversion
- Jeff Shiu large scale SS MG 34 gunner
- Dragon I:35 scale M7 Priest
- Bronco I:35 Archer I7 Pdr SPG
- Hetzer Vignette Tech Guide Pt.2
- Dragon's Sd.Kfz. 7 Early Version
- HobbyBoss I:35 scale VK I602 Leopard
- Dragon I:48 Panzerfahre

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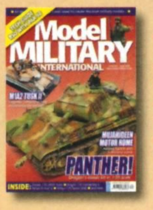

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- I:35 MIA2 Abrams with TUSK II conversion
- Sd.Kfz. 234/3 diorama
- Dragon I:35 Befehls Panther
- Dragon RSO in winter whitewash
- Dragon's Panzer IV Ausf. G
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- Tamiya Pz. 35(t)
- Tamiya's I:35 scale M5 and M8

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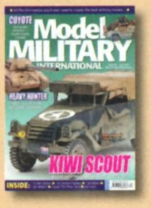

Issue 63
- I:35 Accurate Armour Coyote TSV
- Dragon I:35 Henschel Jagdtiger
- Dust Models I:35 Heinrich Walker
- HobbyBoss I:35 M3AI White Scout Car
- I:48 HobbyBoss T-34/76
- Dragon I:35 Pz.Bef.Wg I
- HobbyBoss I:35 VK4502
- Italeri I:48 88mm gun

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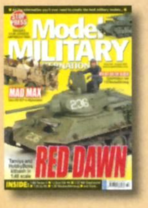

Issue 64
- I:48 T-34/76 kitbashed
- Multimedia Tatra in I:35 scale
- CyberHobby I:35 Neubaufahrzeug
- HobbyBoss I:35 M3AI White Scout Car
- GreatWall Hobby I:35 I2.8cm Pak 44
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- Tasca I:35 Easy Eight
- Tamiya I:48 Panzer II Ausf.A/B/C
- Dragon I:35 Su-85M

» and more...

TOPLESS TWENTY

Issue 65
- Revell I:35 Fuchs
- AMPS 20II Show Report
- Tamiya I:35 M20
- Large scale WWI bust
- Bronco I:35 Hotchkiss H 39
- I:35 Japanese Type 97 Shi-Ki conversion
- I:35 Leopard 2A7 conversion
- Dragon I:35 VK4502
- Dragon I:35 Wirbelwind

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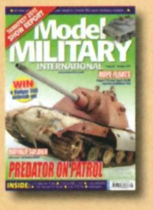

Issue 66
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- Trumpeter I:35 EI00
- Gaso.Line I:48 Buffalo MRAP
- Scratch built I:32 M3 Panhard
- Hobby Boss I:35 scale ZTZ 96
- Tristar I:35 Panzer IV/70 (A)
- HobbyBoss I:35 ZTZ 96 Chinese MBT
- Revell I:72 88 mm FLAK gun

» and more...

Issue 67
- I:35 Warrior OPV conversion
- Tamiya I:35 Sd.Kfz.232 in desert camouflage
- War and Peace 20II Show Report
- Vulcan I:35 Light Tank Mk.VI B
- M728 CEV Conversion
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- Dragon I:35 scale M2AI
- Tamiya King Tiger

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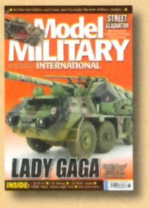

Issue 68
- HobbyBoss I:35 ShkH DANA
- Bronco I:35 Hotchkiss H35
- MIG Productions I:35 Damaged Modern Pickup Hilux
- Tamiya BT-42
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- MiniArt I:35 Valentine Mk.I
- Italeri I:35 M3AI

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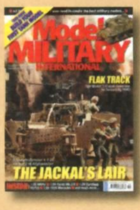

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- Tamiya I:48 and I:35 Panzer II Ausf. A/B/C plus Bronco's I:35 Ausf.D. Pt.I
- Accurate Armour I:35 Jackal 2
- Tamiya FAMO, Dragon 88mm plus Tiger Model Design conversion parts
- Kit Form Services Ferret Mk. 2/3
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- ICM I:35 Mercedes G4
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- AFV Club's I:35 MII26 Stryker
- AFV Club's I:35 Churchill in Soviet colours
- Young Miniatures I:I0 Ardennes Machine Gunner bust
- HobbyBoss I:35 ShkH DANA Pt.2
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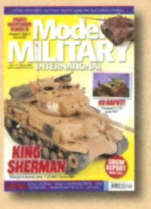

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- Tamiya I:35 M5I
- MMSI Show Report
- Dragon I:35 conversion
- Italeri I:24 Opel Blitz
- Trumpeter I:35 diorama
- Dragon I:35 RSO
- Bronco I:35 Bishop
- Model Victoria I:35 CV-33 Tankette

» and more...

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- Kit Form Services I:24 Ferret
- Cz Kolinec I:35 Zrinyi
- MiniArt Valentine Mk.IV
- Foliage Tech Guide Pt.I
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- Dragon I:35 M4A3(75)W Sherman
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» and more...

LONG MARCH EAST

Issue 73
- I:35 scale BT-7M conversion
- AFV Club I:35 scale MII28
- Bronco I:35 scale Adler
- Tamiya I:48 scale Opel Blitz
- Trumpeter kit by Michel Perez
- Dragon Panzer III Ausf. M
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- Trumpeter I:35 scale Neubaufahrzeug

» and more...

MID-SIZE MARDER

Issue 74
- I:35 scale Tamiya T-55 Enigma PtI
- Tamiya I:48 Marder III M
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- Panda I:35 scale M-ATV
- Dragon I:35 scale Jagdpanzer IV L/70
- Tamiya I:48 scale Js-2

» and more...

THIRD GENERATION

Issue 75
- Zvezda I:35 T-90 Main Battle Tank
- Derek Hansen of Accurate Armour
- Revell I:72 King Tiger
- 'Game Over For Gaddafi' I:35 diorama
- I:35 Cyberhobby Panzerbefehlswagen III Ausf. J
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» and more...

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Next Issue

On sale 2nd August 2012

WELCOME TO KUWAIT CITY - GULF WAR 1990

A new 1:35 scale vignette from Jose Brito.

EASTERN FIRE

Javier Redondo Giminez kitbashes two Trumpeter kits to come up with 1:35 scale scale KV-8 Flamethrower.

WINTER TRACKS

Gary Edmundson tries out a distressed whitewash finish on his 1:35 scale Dragon Sd.Kfz. 251/17.

LIGHT HORSE

Andrew Judson builds and paints AC Models' large-scale WWI bust.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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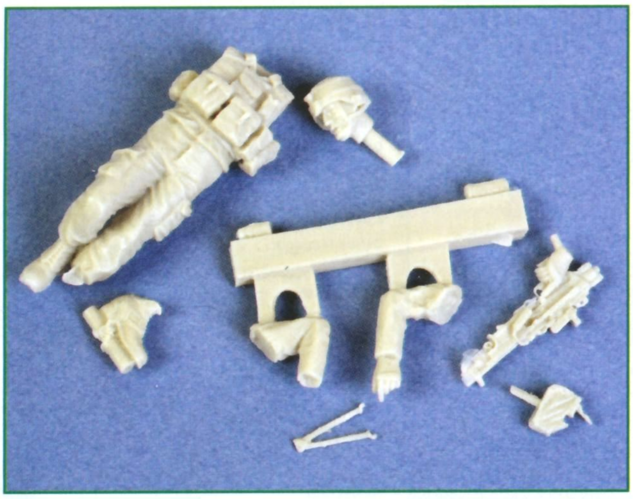


DEBUT FIGURE OFFERING FROM FOLDIT MODELS

FoldiT Models is a new Internet-based retailer recently launched by Andrew Judson and Jason Woollett. Both Andrew and Jason are contributors to ADH magazines, with Andrew's work appearing regularly in Model Military International.

FoldiT has also decided to introduce a new range of 1:35 scale resin figures focusing initially on modern Australian military subjects.

Their first offering is Item No. F001, "Aussie on Patrol - Afghanistan".

The figure comprises six parts in light grey coloured resin. The torso and legs are cast as a single piece, although one foot had broken off my sample in transit. Repair will be a simple matter of super-gluing it back on. Packs and the vest are also cast in place.

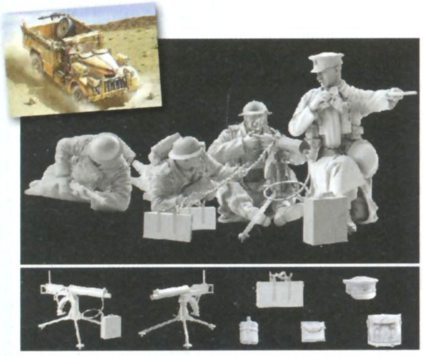
Facial detail is excellent. The helmet is cast with the head.

Detail throughout is crisp and the pose is quite natural for a soldier on patrol.

I received an early sample without packaging or instructions, but I will have more information next issue about this promising debut.

Thanks to FoldiT Models for the sample ***www.folditmodels.com*** ■

DRAGON JUNE RELEASES



Dragon's new 1:35 scale Item No. D6552, "British Expeditionary Force", fills a gap in the range of plastic figures that are currently available on the market. The 1:35 scale Vickers medium MG sits on a tripod and is connected to the condenser container necessary for keeping it cool. Dragon has thoughtfully provided the MG with boxes of ammo, the same bullets as fired by the iconic Short Magazine Lee-Enfield rifle (Rifle No.1 Mk.III*). Two SMLE rifles are included in the set. The British figures are sharply moulded, and most are wearing the Mk.II steel helmet as well as greatcoats to protect against the night-time chill. The officer is clad in a raincoat. The four figures of the MG team combine to create a dramatic vignette as they defend a strongpoint somewhere in France during the confused withdrawal. With these BEF figures, Dragon has greatly expedited the model-maker's task of producing an early WWII scene.

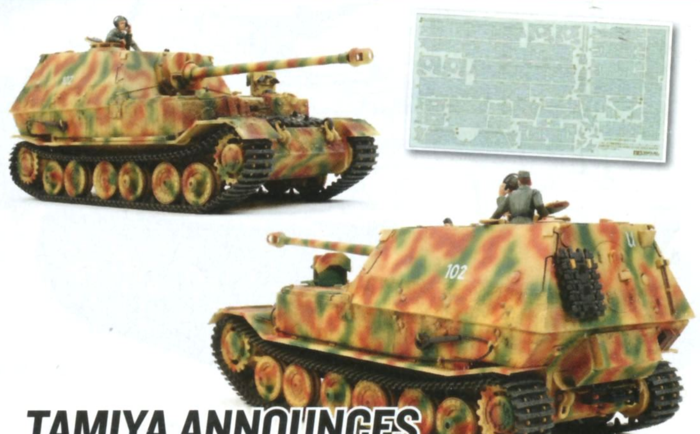
This month Dragon is also releasing Item No. D7439, a 1:72 scale Long Range Desert Group patrol vehicle. The model utilises brand new toolings, with the chassis made as a single piece. Upon this chassis is assembled a slide-moulded front body that has integral fenders and front grill. This single component accurately depicts the well-known front end of this truck type. The rear body is also made as a one-piece component for easy assembly and accurate alignment. The extra-large10.50 x 20 sand tires are crisply detailed, and the appropriate tread pattern is finely replicated.

This is an exciting 1:72 model from Dragon, and the truck will make a perfect centrepiece of a dynamic diorama set in North Africa.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the images and information ***www.hobbyco.net*** ■

DESERT HAWK UAV LAUNCH

A soldier of Bravo Company, 1 Rifles launches a Desert Hawk UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) from a WMIK Landrover during an operation near Garmsir, Afghanistan. Desert Hawk is a portable UAV surveillance system that provides aerial video reconnaissance. It has a flight time of approximately one hour, and can fly anywhere within a 10km radius of its ground control station. It has both day and night time (thermal imaging) capability. The equipment can be used for a variety of tasks, such as force protection for convoys and patrols, route clearance, base security, reconnaissance or target tracking. ■



TAMIYA ANNOUNCES ZIMMERIT COATING FOR NEW 1:35 SCALE ELEFANT

Simulating Zimmerit on military models using putty enhances the kit's appearance but at the same time it does require advanced skills and it is time consuming.

Tamiya has announced the July release of a sticker sheet that will enable easy reproduction of Zimmerit on the recently announced 1:35 scale German Heavy Tank Destroyer Elefant.

By simply applying the stickers on the model and painting, a realistic Zimmerit effect can be achieved.

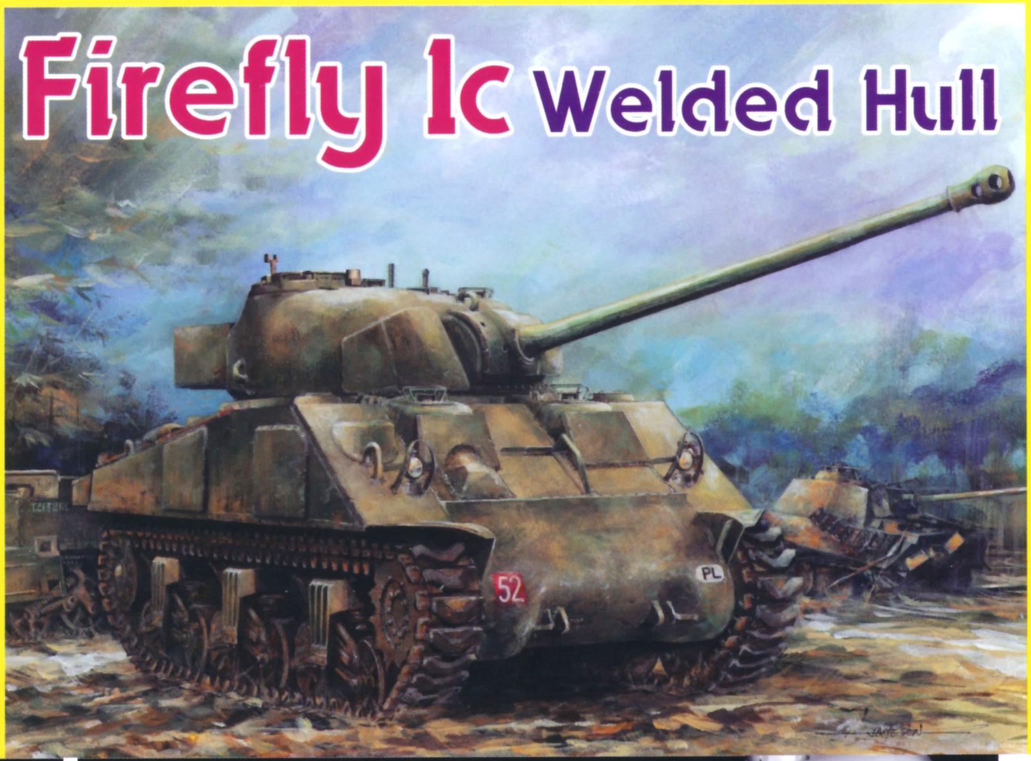
Two different coating patterns are included to match the kit-included marking options.

This will be an interesting option for modellers who prefer not to putty.

Tamiya products are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited ***www.hobbyco.net*** ■

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

Firefly Ic Welded Hull



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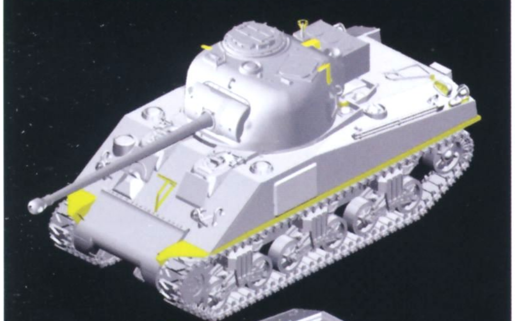
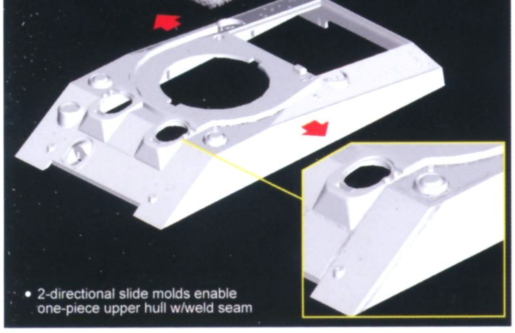
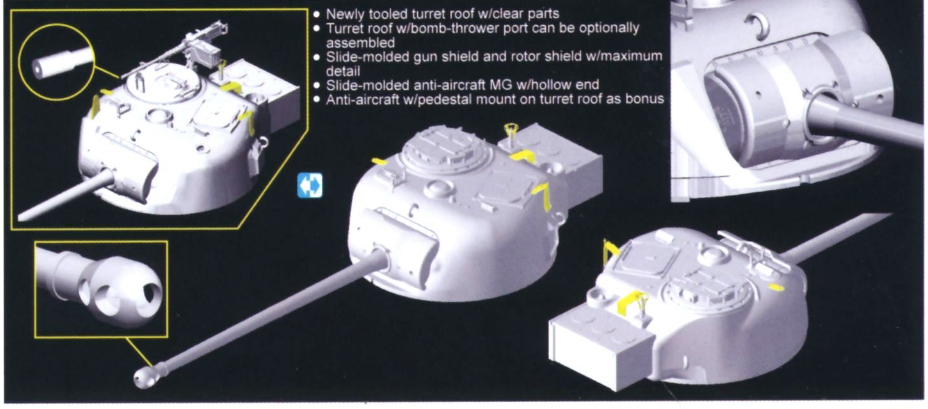


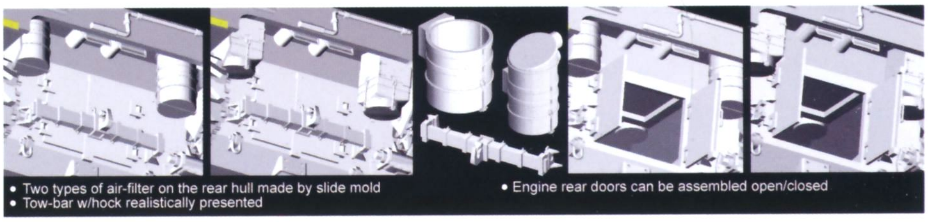
- Brand new Firfly Ic w/authentic detail



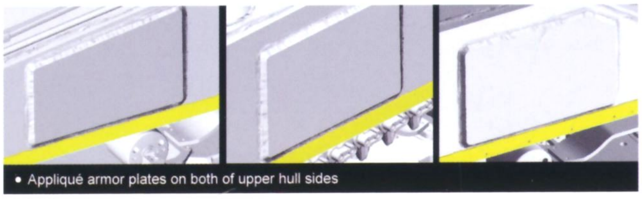
- 2-directional slide molds enable one-piece upper hull w/weld seam



- Newly tooled turret roof w/clear parts
- Turret roof w/bomb-thrower port can be optionally assembled
- Slide-molded gun shield and rotor shield w/maximum detail
- Slide-molded anti-aircraft MG w/hollow end
- Anti-aircraft w/pedestal mount on turret roof as bonus

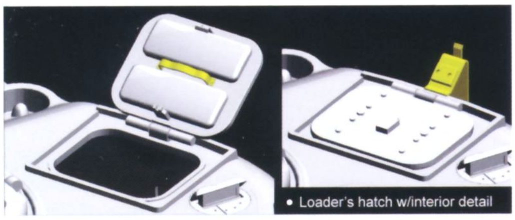


- Two types of air-filter on the rear hull made by slide mold
- Tow-bar w/hock realistically presented
- Engine rear doors can be assembled open/closed

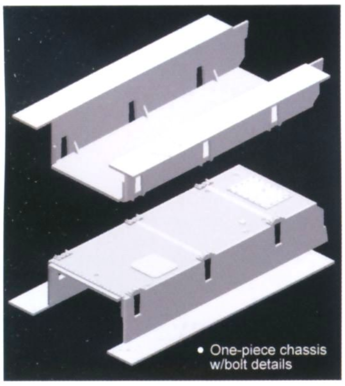


- Appliqué armor plates on both of upper hull sides

- Detailed engine deck splash guard



- Loader's hatch w/interior detail



- One-piece chassis w/bolt details

- New designed engine deck ventilator covers

- Radio bracket w/realistic weld seams

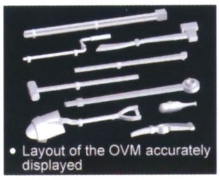
- Commander's hatch w/periscope assembly

- Slide-molded rear stowage boxes

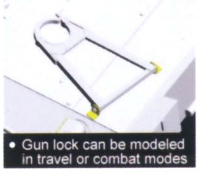
- Armored plate welded over MG port

- Fire extinguishers on the hull rear

- Sprocket molded w/great detail



- Layout of the OVM accurately displayed



- Gun lock can be modeled in travel or combat modes

- DS T48 tracks w/fi detail

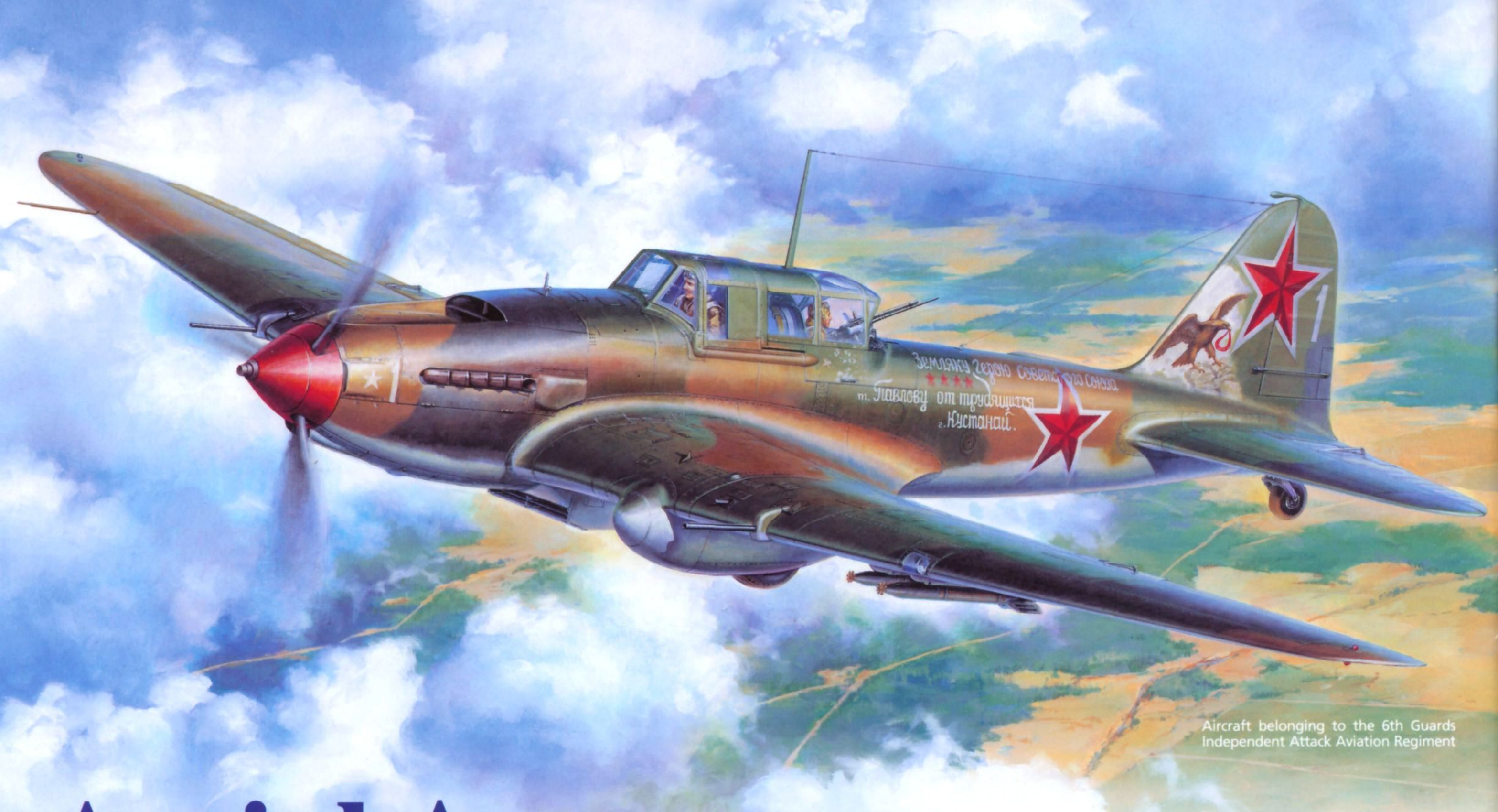
D6568

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG

See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net

Dragon models are available from all good model shops

www.hobbyco.net


Aircraft belonging to the 6th Guards Independent Attack Aviation Regiment

Aerial Armor

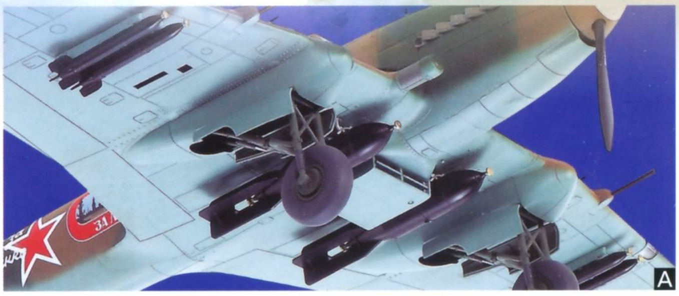
1/48 Scale Ilyushin Il-2 Shturmovik

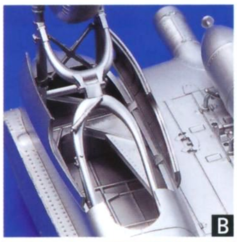
Item 61113

The Il-2 Shturmovik was a ground-attack aircraft which contributed greatly to the Russian war effort in WWII. Stalin declared the aircraft to be as important to his army as air and bread and spurred its production, which eventually totaled over 36,000 aircraft. A characteristic feature of the Il-2's design was its armored fuselage, which was integrated into the airframe to protect vital areas such as the engine, fuel tank, and cockpit. Armed with two 23mm cannons and up to 600kg of bombs and rockets, the Il-2 was devastating against German tank units. In the biography of the legendary German ace Erich Hartmann, he noted that the heavily armored Il-2 was an even more difficult opponent than Russian fighters. The Il-2 was widely used in the latter half of the war and this famous "flying tank" has now been added to Tamiya's 1/48 Scale Aircraft Series.

ILYUSHIN IL-2 SHTURMOVIK

《About the Model》 ★Thorough first-hand research of surviving Il-2s in Russia and the Czech Republic has led to this highly accurate model kit. ★Robust form of the aircraft, including the wooden rear fuselage, is faithfully rendered. ★Kit depicts a late-type two-seat aircraft with outer wing sections swept back at 15 degrees. ★Detailed cockpit interior. ★Options include two types of 23mm cannon fairings, 100kg and 250kg bombs, and three types of launch rails for RS-132 rockets. ★Comes with pilot and gunner figures as well as canopy masks.


A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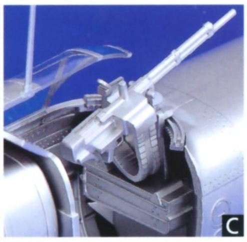
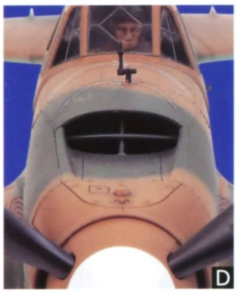
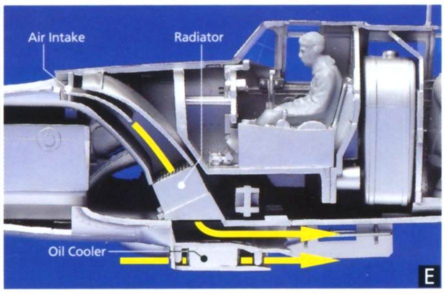

C

A Model may be depicted with bombs and rockets. Underside also features a detailed oil cooler.

B Accurately reproduced main landing gear legs and wheel well details.

C The 12.7mm machine gun comes complete with its traverse rail mount.


D

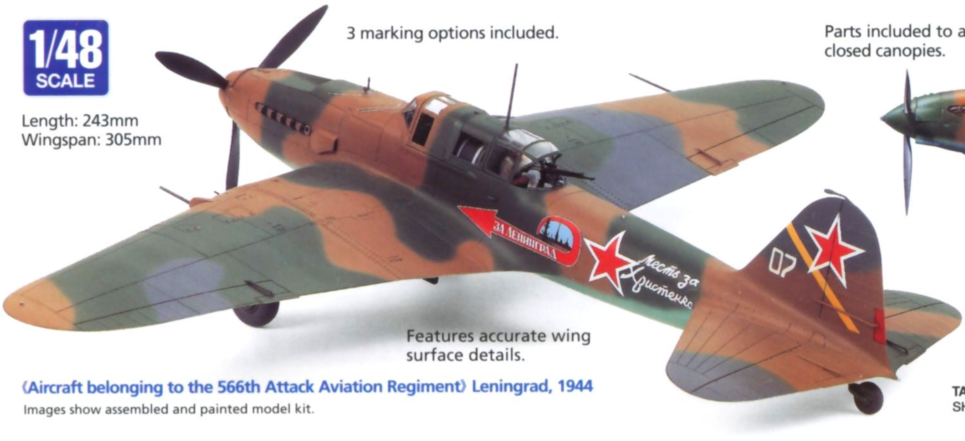

E

D Accurately proportioned nose intake area. **E** Intake duct as well as radiator and oil cooler parts provide insight into the Il-2's cooling system.

1/48 SCALE

Length: 243mm
Wingspan: 305mm

3 marking options included.

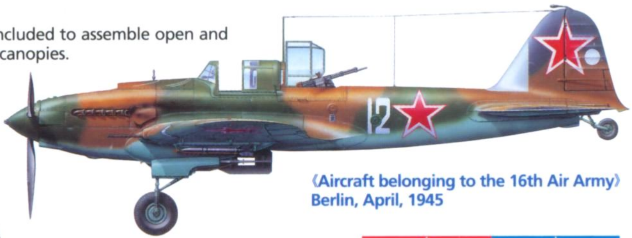


Features accurate wing surface details.

《Aircraft belonging to the 566th Attack Aviation Regiment》 Leningrad, 1944

Images show assembled and painted model kit.

Parts included to assemble open and closed canopies.



《Aircraft belonging to the 16th Air Army》 Berlin, April, 1945

TAMIYA,INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU,
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TAMIYA

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